

Ex-MP on terror charge freed
Extradition refusal sours Irish links

By Edward Gorman and Sheila Gann

ANGLO-IRISH relations plumed new depths yesterday with the Irish Supreme Court decision not to extradite Owen Carron, the former MP suspected of terrorism. The ruling that the firearms offences of which Carron is accused were political and not subject to extradition was greeted with anger by the British Government, and brought fresh calls from Conservative backbenchers for the Anglo-Irish agreement to be scrapped.

Justice in the desert



Deep in the Omani desert the Sultan holds court among his tribal elders. He hears petitions and makes decisions on the spot. Brian James reports: Page 31

Of mice, men and the Metro

There's more these days to the Paris Metro than trains. There's wildlife beneath the pavements, and enough traders and musicians to fill a street market: Page 34

Easter eggs

The shops are full of brightly packaged Easter eggs. To help you pick the best, our panel of tasters has been at work: Page 45

THE TIMES BBC RADIO 4 PM ENVIRONMENT AWARD

The five finalists and how to vote for them: Page 35

TRAVEL

Last of the romantics

Today we begin a series on six of the world's great cities - starting with a romantic exploration of New York: Page 57

SPORT

Big score by West Indies

The West Indies batsmen were amassing a big run total in the fourth Test in Barbados. Alan Lee and Simon Barnes: Page 47

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Acid burns on the 17th-century masterpiece after the attack. The museum says the only damage is to varnish

'Night Watch' acid attack

From Mark Fuller, Amsterdam

A DUTCHMAN yesterday sprayed sulphuric acid on the world-famous Rembrandt painting 'The Night Watch' at the city's Rijksmuseum. The man, aged 31, was immediately held by two museum guards and handed to the police.

Mr P. van Thiel, the museum's keeper of paintings, said: "The damage to the painting, at the top left and centre, was not serious, affecting only the upper varnish layer. We got away with a bad case of shock." He said the painting will be taken to a secret location to be re-varnished and would be back on view in two weeks.

Mr van Thiel said the painting, owned by the Amsterdam city council, was not insured in line with government policy for works of art owned by the state or local authorities. He said it was impossible to put a price on the painting, properly called 'The Militia Company of Captain Frans Banning Cocq'. It acquired its popular name in the 19th century after its varnish darkened.

The museum would now consider extra protection for the painting. Mr van Thiel said. It has been under permanent guard since 1979 when it was put back on view after lengthy restoration following a knife attack in 1975.

A police spokeswoman said the man, who comes from The Hague, was in a "confused state" and had not given any reason for the attack. He was expected to be released after being interviewed by a psychiatrist.

Barrage of music for jail's rebels

By Peter Davenport and Ronald Faux

PRISON authorities yesterday sought to end the siege of Strangeways by adopting the tactic used by US Marines to drive General Noriega from the papal nunciature in Panama City.

They directed loud and constant pop music at the core of the prisoners' protest, holding out on the shattered roof of the prison.

The music blared out from speakers on a police vehicle parked outside the prison walls and its immediate effect was to drown out the voice of Paul Taylor, spokesman for the prisoners, who spent much of yesterday attempting to make a further address from the roof.

Whether it was some kind of psychological warfare intended to demoralize was unclear, but shortly afterwards the police helicopter resumed hovering above the roof and sounding its high-pitched claxon.

Apart from these bizarre events, little obvious progress seemed to be achieved yesterday towards bringing the siege to an end.

After five days of almost continual negotiating, it was becoming clear last night that the remaining inmates, numbering between 18 and 30, would not willingly be dislodged. No one had surrendered since Thursday morning.

The alternatives open to the Governor, Mr Brendan O'Brien, seem increasingly to decrease, leaving only the use of force.

Emergency plans, page 4 Letters, page 11

Britons among injured in Nepal crackdown

By Christopher Thomas, Delhi, and Andrew McEwen, London

TWO Britons were among hundreds injured when the Nepalese Army fired on pro-democracy demonstrators in Kathmandu last night. United News of India said 25 people were killed and hundreds injured, while a report by the Press Trust of India gave the death toll as at least 22.

Another report quoted a doctor at Bir Hospital as saying a British man was among the dead, but this could not be confirmed. A witness who claimed he had seen 35 bodies said: "There are hundreds more wounded. It's a bloody mess."

There are about 760 British residents and an unknown number of tourists in the city, Mr Richard Burges Watson, the British Ambassador, and his staff of 15 diplomats and their dependents were said to be safe in the British Embassy compound.

The shooting came as an angry crowd advanced towards the palace of King Birendra demanding that the system of non-party elected councils be abolished. Witnesses saw about 50 people fall after being struck by bullets.

Earlier the King dismissed the Cabinet after the resignation on Thursday night of Mr Marich Man Singh Shrestha, the Prime Minister.

Troops open fire, page 7

Riot pictures must be surrendered

By Lin Jenkins

NEWSPAPERS and television companies were yesterday ordered by the Central Criminal Court to hand over photographs and film footage of the poll-tax riot to the police inquiry.

Judge Neil Denison said that while he accepted that the granting of such orders to hand over pictures to police inquiries should not be automatic or routine, the overriding public interest was that the criminals be apprehended and brought to trial.

He said he accepted arguments from those news organizations which contested the application that there was also a public interest in the media being seen to be impartial in their reporting and he accepted that when film found its way into the hands of the police it increased the dangers to newsmen doing their jobs.

There are two conflicting public interests and in a sense they are irreconcilable. The police should have the material available for their inquiry and the media should not be seen to have become an arm of the police or any other organ of the state," he said.

But in this case there was very serious rioting and the peace of the streets of London was for a while suspended.

Mr Geoffrey Shaw, counsel for the BBC and TVAM, told the court that the police would continue to fail to take adequate video footage and still photographs of public disorder if they could rely on the courts to order that film be handed over to subsequent police inquiries.

£80m staked on National

BOOKMAKERS are expecting to take £80 million on the outcome of today's Seagram Grand National.

As the sun shone on Aintree yesterday, once-a-year backers latched on to the 7-1 favourite Brown Windsor, a fast-ground specialist, as their ally in attempting to lighten the bookmakers' satchels.

So fast has the ground become that William Hills is offering only even money that Red Rum's record time of 9min 01.9sec, set in 1973, will be broken.

The 1986 winner, West Tip, is competing in his sixth consecutive National, with youth represented by Ghofar, a comparative upstart.

Race preview, pages 52, 53

Howe plea for calm

By Sheila Gann, Political Reporter

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the deputy Prime Minister, will attempt to steady Tory nerves today by insisting that the party will overcome "current difficulties" and go on to win the next general election.

As the party was rocked by the latest opinion survey, depicting Mrs Thatcher as the most unpopular Prime Minister since polling began 50 years ago, Sir Geoffrey prepared his appeal to colleagues to devote themselves to "the reestablishment of our political primacy".

In a speech in Oxford, Surrey, tonight he is expected to set out his agenda for reviving the party's fortunes within the next two years.

As MPs left Westminster for the Easter recess, the Tories were gloomy at the prospect of feeling the full force of the poll. Continued on page 16, col 6

Gould warning, page 2 Thatcher's chances, page 10

Burns immortalized in a computer database

By Philip Howard, Literary Editor

THE NATIONAL bard of Scotland has been comprehensively computerized, and his poems are now available for the first time. What the immortal poet of individual freedom (and Scottish chauvinism, and wenching, and boozing) would have made of this is doubtful. But I have no doubts. As Burns put it in "Address to the Unco Guid": "What's done we partly may compute. But know not what's resisted."

The computer has been used to publish a 765-page concordance to Burns, to enable devotees to track down uncannily any quotation or alternative reading in his 600 profuse works of mixed quality. Burns A-Z: The Complete Word-Finder lists about 15,000 key words, and 80,000 quotations, with cross-references to the complete works.

It is the labour of love of James Mackay, a Burns buff and writer from Dumfries, and is published by him today at £38.50. He amassed six megabytes of Burns information, and says: "In many respects the computerization of the lines was the easy part. The problems stretched into infinity when it came to translating the material in this database into a word-processing mode."

The task of tabulating Burns was attempted once before, exactly a century ago, with quill pen and slips of paper by the Rev John Brown Reid, minister of Wigtown Free Church in Galloway. Since then, 116 more poems and songs have been added to the official Burns canon. The new concordance also takes into account the numerous bawdy works, which naturally did not appear in standard editions until 1968.

Mr Mackay says: "During my work I discovered that Burns used the same line in several different poems. But if it's a good line, why not? Homer did it all the time." He was amazed that Burns mentioned Dumfries by name only once in all his poems, although he spent his last years in the town. On the other hand, Ayr is mentioned no fewer than 30 times. Presumably Ayr rhymed better, and is a more beautiful name, as well as a more beautiful town - pushing it a bit.

The book will be an invaluable tool for those called upon to make speeches at Burns Night dinners, and display their Caledonian erudition at other such events. The Burns cult flourishes all around the world, wherever emigrants from Scotland have taken it - that is to say, all round the world, wherever maudlin Scottish exiles meet each other quoting through the Rye. The new concordance was partly financed by a retired Australian businessman, through the world-wide Burns Federation.

Robert Burns: converted into megabytes



ONTARIO BY CONCORDE advertisement. Includes text about the Ontario by Concorde experience, a five-star cottage on Georgian Bay, and contact information for Blyth & Company.

Anglo-Irish pact likely to survive extradition strain

By Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent

THE Irish Supreme Court decision to set free Owen Carron, a former Westminster MP and a suspected terrorist, yesterday sparked inevitable anger among the traditional critics of Dublin in Britain.

Their reaction underlined what may turn out to be the most damaging aspect of the affair: that the decision and the one last month on which it was based will make early moves towards political progress in Northern Ireland virtually impossible.

There are few Unionist politicians who could now contemplate attempting to sell to their constituents any kind of deal or compromise with either Dublin or the SDLP.

But there is no real prospect that Britain will allow extradition arguments to threaten the Anglo-Irish Agreement, because part of its purpose is to see the two governments through such disputes.

While critics claim that Ireland is displaying its true hand as a "safe haven" for terrorists, the view in Dublin is strikingly different.

Irish lawyers say that in most future cases, suspected or convicted IRA men captured in the republic will be sent back without delay.

The key is that Owen Carron and the two Maze escapees, James Pius Clarke and Dermot Finucane set free last month, were being judged under Ireland's 1965 Extradition Act which allows British warrants to be ignored for "political" offences.

That standard has been superseded by the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism which came into force in the Irish Republic in December 1987, under which almost all the serious offences connected with terrorist activity warrant automatic extradition.

In the short term, however, further frustrations for Britain are likely because in some outstanding cases, defence lawyers will be able to argue that the case should be treated under the old law.

There is likely to be little comfort, either, in the cases of eight Maze escapees still on the run in the Republic. If they are ever brought to book they may avoid extradition, as did Clarke and Finucane, on the grounds that they might face physical assault by Maze prison staff on their return.

Much of the frustration in Britain over extradition has been caused by what a leading lawyer in Dublin described yesterday as the "shabby" misinterpretation of the 1965 Act by the Supreme Court in the case of Dominic McGlinchey in 1982.

Then, the court decided that a political offence had to mean an "offence which reasonable civilized people would regard as political activity". In refusing to extradite Clarke and Finucane, the Supreme Court overruled that precedent.

One other point arising out of yesterday's decision is why the British authorities do not use the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act, which allows criminals to be tried in the republic for offences committed in Northern Ireland.

Some lawyers in Belfast suggest that Britain is reluctant to do that in case the Dublin courts set people free, and for fear of casting a slur on the British courts by abandoning efforts to bring terrorists to justice there.



Mr Owen Carron is manhandled through the crowd after escaping extradition from the Irish Republic yesterday

Aid denied to disabled living at home

By Jill Sherman
Social Services
Correspondent

THOUSANDS of severely disabled people will be refused financial help to live at home this year because the Government has failed to provide sufficient funding, it was claimed yesterday.

The Independent Living Fund, set up by the Government in 1988 to help to pay for domestic assistance for the disabled, said that from Monday it would stop processing new applications and suspend decisions where applicants had not already been assessed by the fund's social workers.

The fund has committed almost all its £24 million budget this year to existing claimants but it is still receiving 1,800 new applications a month, of which it approves about 600. Earlier this week the Government offered to provide a further £8 million for the fund but this falls far short of the £15 million which the organization claims it needs to continue providing help for those meeting the already tight criteria.

The group was set up as an independent charitable trust after social security changes ended weekly payments for domestic assistance.

Labour makes poll tax key election issue

By Sheila Gunn, Political Reporter

Mr Bryan Gould, the shadow environment secretary, warned the Government yesterday that it cannot treat Labour-controlled councils as scapegoats for the "Tory poll-tax fiasco".

Firing the opening shots in the local council elections campaign, he indicated that Labour's strategy will be to exploit unease over the poll tax while tying it around Mrs Thatcher in view of the latest poll evidence of her increasing unpopularity.

Mr Michael Howard, Secretary of State for Employment, who has been brought in to boost the Tories' campaign, however, sought yesterday to focus voters' attention on the antics of "loony left councils".

Mr Gould, who was Labour's campaign co-ordinator during the 1987 general election, is to mastermind Labour's campaign team in the May 3 elections of councillors to 36 metropolitan districts, 115 English districts, 32 London borough and local Scottish and Welsh councils.

He will be helped by other Labour frontbench spokesmen, particularly Mr David Blunkett, shadow local government minister.

Launching the campaign in Bristol, where the local council is a target for this week's charge-capping, Mr Gould blamed the high levels of poll tax bills on central government policy. The Government, he said, had seriously miscalculated by £3 billion "deliberately or otherwise" the amount needed by Tory and Labour-controlled local councils to maintain services.

"It is no service to poll tax payers facing those high bills right across the country to pretend that the responsibility can somehow be pinned on a handful of Labour-controlled councils and to try to pretend they can be treated as scapegoats for the Tory poll-tax fiasco," he said.

"The sooner a general election comes, the sooner we will be able to take the chance to get rid of Mrs Thatcher."

Mr Howard, the former environment minister, warned voters in Basingstoke yesterday that Labour-controlled councils guaranteed a higher community charge and higher spending. "For Labour councils up and down Britain are notorious for wasting public money on loony left causes," he said. Emphasizing the Tories' election strategy of attacking "loony left" councils, he made the points that: Haringey subsidizes five trade union officials at a cost of £500,000 in its building department; Manchester spent £30,000 on a Lesbian link project and £50,000 on a new gay centre; Lewisham hired an artist for £11,000 a year to advise on modern sculpture; London Labour council groups have urged their councillors to set the highest community charge they could get away with.

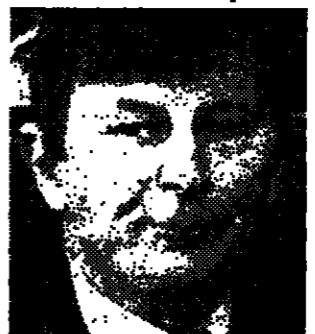
The question for voters, he added, was: "Do they want their money thrown down the plug hole or used to mend the potholes? Do they waste or wisdom from their council?"

● The poll tax is unfair and a threat to civil liberties — and makes street protests inevitable, Methodists said yesterday.

In a leaflet produced by the Methodist Church they called on Mrs Margaret Thatcher to repeal the community charge.

In the pamphlet explaining the tax, the Rev John Kennedy adds: "The community charge has outraged the public by its unfairness and by the frequent adjustment to its operation on blatantly political grounds."

"A faction within the Government has imposed its will on Cabinet, on Parliament and on the country. This makes wide-scale protest in the streets inevitable."



Mr Gould: Launched Labour's campaign

Ruling brings new fears on heritage

By Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent

THERE is grave concern in the heritage lobby about the future of an important cabinet at Badminton House, Gloucestershire, after a ruling at Bristol Crown Court.

Mr John Murdoch, assistant director for collections at the Victoria and Albert Museum, said: "The two major issues facing us, 'The Three Graces' and the looming Badminton cabinet, are a measure of the crisis facing the nation in funding of our museums."

Last week his museum confirmed that the Temple Cabinet — which has been described as "one of the most important pieces of furniture in England" — had been offered privately for sale for about 24 million.

At first there was criticism that the valuation, reported to have been done by the auctioneers Christie's, was too high. The figure was "entirely arbitrary", another expert said.

There is little likelihood that the museum, which has just failed to raise £7.6 million to save Canova's "The Three Graces", can raise the money.

Later in the week the Bristol ruling added to apprehension. Here the conviction of an executor of an estate in Somerset for selling fixtures and fittings in contravention of the listed buildings law was quashed. One of the reasons given by the recorder was that the overmantle mirror in question had been moved from its original position, and was therefore no longer part of the listing.

It is an argument which has also been offered by Mr David Trippier, the environment minister, in respect of the Canova, which has been removed from its original site at Woburn Abbey.



مكتبة الأمل

Judge issues warning on steroids that 'ruined' man

A JUDGE issued a warning yesterday that the abuse of anabolic steroids can turn fit and healthy people into "slamming wrecks".

Ronald Thacker, aged 56, a bodybuilder and weightlifter, who took up to nine steroid injections a day "to keep young" because he was in love with a girl aged 13, sat shaking uncontrollably in the dock at the Central Criminal Court as Mr Justice Rousier spoke.

Thacker was described as a "living corpse", wracked by years of addiction to stimulants.

Mr Richard Soames, for the defence, said: "He never wanted to believe in getting old and dreaded the thought of losing a young lover."

Thacker, a cleaner, of Kane Road, Thamesmead, pleaded guilty to possessing steroids and stimulants, favoured by sportsmen, with intent to supply.

He also admitted having unlawful sexual intercourse with an under-aged girl and illegally possessing a loaded revolver.

Thacker sat with head bowed as the judge described him as "obviously a pathetic and mixed-up person".

His obsession with physical fitness had led to his becoming a "shaking wreck" because of the vast quantities of drugs that he had been taking daily for 20 years.

Mr Justice Rousier added: "There is a prime example of what can happen to a healthy man. I'm not surprised to see the effect of all this stuff he's been shoving into himself."

Thacker was remanded to a psychiatric hospital for reports and is due to be sentenced next week.

Earlier, Det Sergeant Keith Snow told the court that during a raid on Thacker's tower block flat police had found 9,000 individual doses of drugs, £2,000 in cash and 900 syringes.

Thacker had been running a "surgery" at which gymnasts, athletes and bodybuilders were able to obtain supplies of testosterone, the male sex hormone, and also stocks of

an appetite suppressor and sex stimulant.

The officer said that Thacker had refused to name the medical source of the drugs, but it was suspected that he obtained them from a wholesaler.

The authorities are now issuing warnings to GPs and chemists to control the distribution of the steroids.

Thacker, a divorced man and a "fanatical pumper of iron", had been involved in a large business supplying the drugs, said the judge, who agreed that there was "a great deal of confusion" about the use of steroids.

"We all know that various people have been sent home in disgrace from athletics meetings," he added.

The court heard that Thacker had fallen "head over heels in love" with a schoolgirl runner, who soon became his lover. He had supplied her with some of the sex stimulant drugs.

Now almost 15, the girl had been a regular visitor to his home for sex sessions. He had taken photographs of her naked and had made a video film of them having sex. The girl had been a virgin when they met.

Mr Soames told the judge that Thacker was "completely besotted by her and devoted to her".

Mr Soames added: "He has now become a broken man because of his obsession with keeping young and taking these drugs."

"He fooled himself into believing that he would always have a fine body and be able to please her."

"He was in love with her and asked her to marry him. She felt the same way about him and was an enthusiastic bed partner."

Mr Soames said: "That affair with the girl seems part and parcel of his desperate attempt not to be a 56-year-old. He didn't want to believe he was middle-aged."

Mr Justice Rousier told Thacker: "The most serious aspect of this case is that you were debauching a girl of 14."

Fraud on bank to help gambler

A WOMAN turned to crime to pay her husband's debts after he became so addicted to gambling that he spent £500 a day on gaming machines, a judge at Southwark Crown Court was told yesterday.

Julie Wilson, aged 26, obtained £20,000 by fraud from the Midland bank branch in St Clement's Dances, in the City of London, where she worked as a clerk.

The extra money appeared only to increase Raymond Wilson's addiction. He spent £19,000 of the money made from the fraud on "one-armed bandits", Mr Godfrey Mott, for the defence, said.

"It must have seemed like manna from heaven to him to be able to draw on such funds. It all went straight into fruit machines."

"He could not pass a machine without putting money in it. Every day for three weeks

he drew £500 from the bank and spent it all on his addiction," Mr Mott said.

Judge Paiba jailed Raymond Wilson for two years and Julie Wilson was sentenced to two years with 18 months suspended.

The couple, from Addington Road, Canning Town, east London admitted theft and false accounting between March 7 and April 11 last year. Raymond Wilson, a bus driver, asked for 47 related charges to be taken into consideration. His wife asked for 35 other charges to be taken into consideration.

Mr Godfrey Browne, for the prosecution, said that the wife earned only £6,000 a year from the bank. The couple were in financial difficulties from the beginning of their marriage in 1984 and she had committed the crime to help her husband.

Classics of the road show their paces again

ADRIAN BROOKS



Three classic cars from the collection at Filching Manor, Polegate, East Sussex, run along the front at Bexhill in preparation for the town's festival of motoring on May 6 and 7

French link murder to earlier stabbing

By David Sapsted

FRENCH police investigating the frenzied killing of a British businesswoman in Cherbourg are believed to have a description of the man who stabbed her 17 times.

Detectives think he is still in the Normandy town and are linking the murder with an knife attack last month when another woman living nearby, who was seven months pregnant, was stabbed by an unknown assailant. She and her baby, delivered by Caesarian section with a stab wound to his foot, survived.

A post-mortem examination on Miss Alison Dutton, aged 24, who worked for a company exporting wine to Britain, was conducted yesterday afternoon but the results are not expected until early next week. Detectives said there appeared to be no sexual motive and that nothing appeared to have been stolen from the office where the body was found, close to the cross-Channel ferry terminal.

Miss Dutton, from Tynemouth, Tyne and Wear, was a graduate of Edinburgh University and was due to marry her French fiancé, M Michel Lechanoine, in two months' time. He found her body in the office late on Wednesday evening after becoming concerned that she had not returned to their flat.

French detectives have traced several people who were in the area at the time of the attack. Miss Dutton, who graduated from Edinburgh in July, 1989, had joined the wine company as a junior executive in January.

M Philippe Prevel, who works for an import-export company in the same building as Miss Dutton, yesterday described her as a shy, introverted woman who was well-liked by everyone.

"She was a very kind, very sweet person - a bit shy. She was well-educated, gentle, hard-working and always helpful. Everybody here is very shocked, of course - especially the women," he said.

"Usually I am the last man

to leave the office. Some of the girls used to stay later, but from now on I will make sure that when I leave everybody leaves."

Miss Dutton often stayed later than most other people in the building because she was working to British time, which is one hour later than French time. Her secretary left at about 6.10pm on Wednesday and her body was found by her fiancé, a fireman, three hours later. He has been interviewed by police and released without charge.

Miss Michelle Saurel, the examining magistrate, said yesterday that a number of witnesses had been interviewed and that it was possible the murder was connected with the earlier knife attack and, possibly, the unsolved and similar killing of a woman in the town almost five years ago.

Friends of Miss Dutton in Tynemouth yesterday described her as a lively girl who loved France and music. She was a talented violinist, playing in the Northern Junior Philharmonic Orchestra and leading the Tynemouth Orchestra.

Mr Peter Swan, secretary of the orchestra, said: "Alison was a marvellous musician



Miss Dutton: Police have a description of her killer

Colony of penguins wiped out by virus

By Ruth Gledhill

SCIENTISTS have identified the virus that has wiped out a colony of endangered penguins at Rode, Somerset, as one from the herpes family.

The fourteenth and final blackfooted penguin, *Spheniscus demersus*, died this week at the Tropical Bird Gardens, which is now without penguins for the first time in 28 years.

Colonies of blackfooted penguins at Bristol and Paignton zoos have not been affected.

Mr Gerry Benbo, veterinary surgeon for Rode, said: "Tests are not yet complete. We do not know how the virus got in or why other water birds on the lake were not affected."

"It is terribly sad. Some of the birds had been reared there. They were tame and walked among the public."

"We dare not restock until we know where the virus came from."

Scientists believe that the viral deaths were not connected with the deaths of all but one of a colony of Humboldt penguins at Burford, Oxfordshire.

Dr John Baker, senior lecturer in veterinary pathology at Liverpool University, said the 18 penguins at the Cotswold Wildlife Park had died as a result of liver failure, probably caused by a toxin. Four rockhopper penguins also died.

Collectors face match warning

By Harvey Elliott

Well travelled philumenists will have to take special precautions if they are to continue with their hobby of collecting matches without incurring the wrath of the Civil Aviation Authority.

Many businessmen slip the books and boxes of matches freely available in most hotels into their pockets to add to collections at home.

The practice, however, could be endangering the aircraft on which they fly as many of these matches are of the non-safety variety and liable to catch fire.

Five such fires - none serious - were reported to the Civil Aviation Authority last year, one reason why it chose to spend £280,000 launching a new Air Travellers' Code for the 20 million people who buy tickets in Britain each year.

Mr Ronald Ashford, group director of safety regulations for the CAA, admits to taking such matches out to planes.

"It is a very silly thing to do and could endanger an aircraft. Not only that it is against the law."

The CAA is even pressing for changes in legislation to give their inspectors the right to make snap searches of passengers and their luggage at airports to ensure they are not carrying non-safety matches or other dangerous goods.

They also intend to step up prosecutions to deter the apparently growing trend of passengers to take such items on board. They would also

welcome ways of enabling duty-free goods to be collected at the destination rather than carried on board aircraft.

"It is a relatively minor fire hazard but the glass bottles in which duty-free goods sold at airports are contained can smash in an emergency and cause cuts to passengers as well as damaging safety slides," Mr Ashford said.

The code will be given away by travel agents with airline tickets and made available at airports.

It says cabin luggage must be small enough to fit into overhead luggage lockers and should have been packed by the traveller himself. Gifts should be left unwrapped so they can be examined by security staff and should be in bags that do not have outside zip pockets to avoid tampering.

The code lists goods which must not be carried, from firearms to poisons and weedkillers.

Stern warnings about drinking too much before or during the flight are also given.

The CAA chairman Christopher Tugendhat said that amounts which can have little effect on the ground "can go straight to your head 35 miles up".

Smoking on flights, the CAA says, will not be banned outright because of fears that determined smokers will try to find an unauthorized - and dangerous - place to light up, such as the lavatories. Rules on the times when smoking is permitted must be kept to.

Ship inspires dry land successor

By Craig Seton

THE distinctive lines of the Blue Riband holder Mauretania, its four funnels belching smoke, may be seen in Britain once again. Its reappearance, however, is intended to be in the form of a five-star hotel near Birmingham.

Plans for a hotel in the shape of the former Cunarder, built in 1906 and scrapped in 1935, have been prepared for the British Rail Property Board, which owns land alongside Birmingham International Airport on which it is proposed to build it.

The hotel would incorporate many features of the former transatlantic liner, including its four funnels, to be used for air-conditioning and for pumping out steam to simulate smoke, a ballroom, teak "decks" on which shuffleboard and quoits could be played, lifeboats rocking at their stations, brass fittings and a replica of the bridge.

A multi-storey car park would be housed in the "engine room".

The hotel is the idea of Mr Richard Borwick, an independent adviser to British Rail, who believes that fun should be put back into architecture. The British Rail Property Board is, it seems, taking the suggestion seriously.

Mr Borwick said yesterday: "We believe it is feasible. How likely is it to be built? I think

that it is a good idea and that it will be built, if not in Birmingham, then somewhere else."

"An ocean-going liner was a logical idea. It is the only thing Birmingham does not have."

The overriding force behind it is fun. I chose the Mauretania because everyone's idea of an ocean liner is a four-stacker."

The 400-bed hotel would be linked to the airport by a monorail running at deck-level. The hotel plan has yet to

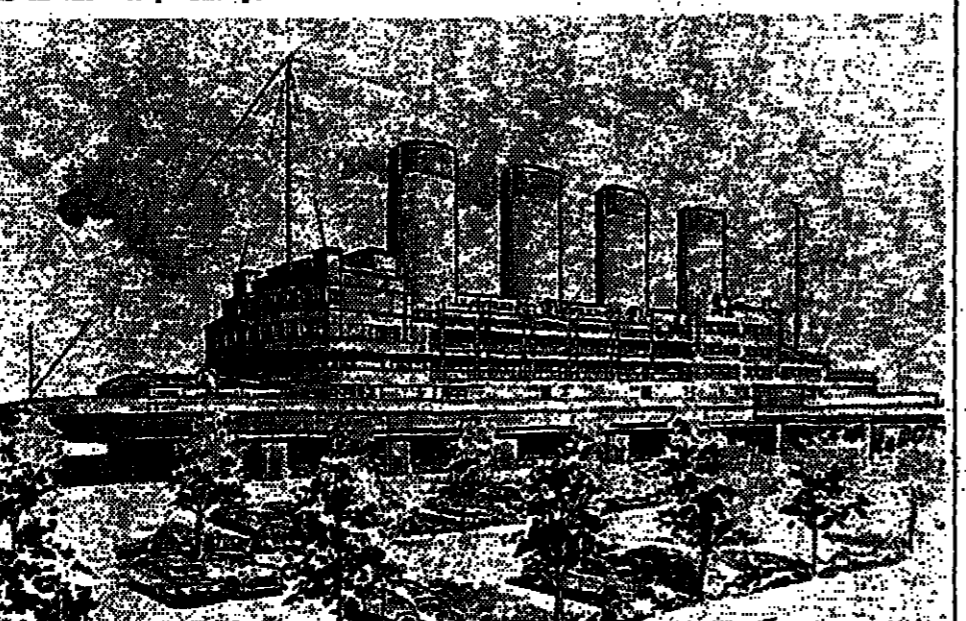
be submitted to the two local authorities involved, Birmingham and Solihull councils.

A spokesman for the British Rail Property Board said yesterday: "It is at a very early stage, but it is a very imaginative idea. We are looking to do something with that land and this is one of the suggestions put to us. There are already road, rail and air links in the area, so why not another mode of transport?"

When the Mauretania, which was built on the Tyne,

was broken up at Rosyth in 1935 *The Times* was moved to comment in a leader on the passing of the 32,000-ton liner.

It said that no real regret needed to be caused by the event because she had survived the normal life of a great passenger vessel. It added that the name of Mauretania would rank deservedly with those of the most famous British clippers, which were still honoured "whenever men speak of fine ships".



The Mauretania-inspired hotel that may rise near Birmingham's airport

Watchdog complaint 'upheld'

By Richard Evans
Media Editor

THE first complaint made to the Press Council by a newspaper ombudsman against another national title has been partly upheld.

Mr Ken Donlan, ombudsman at *The Sun*, complained that *The Independent* magazine had published an inaccurate item which reflected on his conduct as an ombudsman without seeking his views.

The offer to publish a letter from him was not an adequate remedy, Mr Donlan said. His complaint was partly upheld because of *The Independent*'s five-week delay in offering to print a letter which the Press Council said would have been an adequate remedy at the right time, but the offer did not come at the right time.

The council said Mr Donlan was entitled to an opportunity to respond to an item by Weasel, *The Independent*'s diarist, which quoted and added to a correspondent's criticism of Mr Donlan.

"It was largely comment, but included a significant misstatement of fact which he was anxious to correct... *The Independent* magazine's handling of the matter was dilatory", the council said.

Television Licence Fee Increase

Television licence fees were increased with effect from 1 April 1990. The new fees are £24.00 for black and white and £71.00 for colour.

Licencees who use the Direct Debit or Credit Card schemes to pay for their licence should note the following:

Annual payment by Direct Debit or Credit Card

Your next licence will be issued at the new rate. Consequently your account will be debited with the appropriate amount on or immediately after the first day of the month following that in which your current licence expires.

Monthly instalments by Direct Debit

1. If your current licence expires at the end of March 1991 then the monthly instalment will now be one tenth of the new fee, ie £24.00 per month for a black and white licence or £71.00 per month for a colour licence.

2. If you have been paying monthly instalments towards your next licence based on the old fee, then on the last day of the month in which your current licence expires, your account will be debited with an amount equal to the difference between the old and new fees, ie £2.00 for black and white or £5.00 for colour. Thereafter instalments will be based on the new fee as in '1' above.

Quarterly instalments by Direct Debit

Premium Scheme

When your current colour licence expires, your quarterly instalments towards your next licence will be based on the new fee, ie £19.00 (£17.75 plus £1.25 premium payment) per quarter.

Standard Scheme

1. If your current colour licence expires between now and the end of June this year, your instalments (towards your next licence) have been based on the old fee. Consequently, your next instalment will then be 1/4 of the new fee, ie £17.75 per quarter.

2. If your licence expires between July and the last day of September this year, the same situation as that depicted on '1' above applies except that the next (catch-up) instalment will be £19.00.

3. If your licence expires between October and the last day of December this year, your instalments will now be based solely on the new fee, ie £17.75 per quarter.

4. If your licence expires between January and March next year the next (final) instalment towards your current licence will be at the old rate, ie £16.50. Thereafter, instalments will be at the new rate, ie £17.75 per quarter.



National TV Licence
Records Office
Bristol BS98 1TL

Temporary centres considered to reduce jail overcrowding

By Quentin Cowdry
Home Affairs Correspondent

EMERGENCY plans to reduce dangerously high levels of overcrowding in some jails after the riot at Strangeways prison, Manchester, were being considered by the Home Office yesterday.

Alternatives being mooted include the conversion of several military camps into temporary jails — an option taken up during the last prison riots in 1986 — or the use of young offender institutions.

Of the two, the latter is the more likely as the Home Office was already planning to upgrade at least one institution into an adult prison to reduce overcrowding in prisons like Strangeways.

Reduced use of custody for young offenders has meant there are now over 1,000 empty beds in those centres.

Prison Department officials know they have to move fast to avert possible new outbreaks of disorder in jails to which former Strangeways inmates

have been sent. With the department's northern region already desperately short of accommodation, many of the 1,600 inmates transferred from Strangeways since the riot began last Sunday have had to be sent to jails in the South, hundreds of miles from their families.

The position of transferred remand inmates is seen as particularly worrying, given their entitlement to more frequent family visits and their need to attend court regularly.

"Whatever the department does it's got to be bold and quick," Mr Chris Scott, vice-chairman of the Prison Governors' Association, said.

Describing the situation as "exceedingly dangerous", he added: "The cardinal rule for the peaceful running of a prison is don't interfere with inmates' visits or mail."

Mr Scott said the incident earlier this week at Durham jail, where a prison officer was held hostage by inmates, and

other less serious disorders which had occurred over the past few days showed how volatile inmates might be following the Strangeways riot.

The Prison Reform Trust said the relocation of "traumatized and anxious" inmates hundreds of miles from their relatives had presented officials with a "severe problem".

A spokesman said: "We would ask magistrates to do all they can to ease the position by reducing custodial remands to the safest minimum."

Meanwhile, new fears were voiced by union and management officials yesterday that Britain's jails could be facing renewed industrial unrest over prison officers' demands for increased manning.

Mr John Sutcliffe, a member of the Prison Officers' Association's national executive, said officers had "reached the end of their tolerance" and pointed out that the union already had a mandate to ballot members on possible industrial

action. He claimed that the scale of the manning problem was highlighted by the fact that officers had to be called from prisons in London and Devon to help to deal with the rioting at Manchester.

The union told the department on Thursday that another 1,000 officers were needed. Some 3,000 extra officers have been recruited since 1987 when the union agreed that overtime should be phased out by March 31, 1992. The POA, however, says those increased numbers have not proved sufficient.

Prison authorities yesterday adopted the tactic used by the US Marines to drive General Noriega from the Vatican Embassy in Panama City to try to end the Strangeways siege (Peter Davenport and Ronald Faux write).

They directed loud and constant pop music at the core of hardline prisoners still holding out on the shattered roof of the prison. Its immediate effect was to drown out the voice of Paul Taylor, the spokesman for the prisoners, who spent

much of yesterday attempting to make an address from the roof.

Whether it was some kind of psychological warfare intended to have further demoralizing effect was unclear, but shortly afterwards the police helicopter returned hovering above the roof and sounding its own loud, high-pitched siren. There was, however, little obvious progress towards bringing the siege to an end.

After five days of almost continual negotiating, it was becoming clear last night that the remaining group of inmates, numbering between 18 and 30, would not be willingly dislodged.

Although the attempts by the authorities to secure a peaceful conclusion to the siege have steadily reduced the numbers holding out, the situation yesterday appeared deadlocked with the last two men having surrendered on Thursday morning.

The options open to the governor, Mr Brendan O'Friel, seem increasingly to

leave the use of force as the only alternative.

Mr O'Friel, who has preferred to rely on the skills of teams of trained negotiators to resolve the confrontation, has made it clear, however, that he would not rule out any option.

Hundreds of prison officers and police riot squads remain on standby but the authorities are reluctant to discuss tactics for fear of alerting the prisoners, who are thought to be monitoring radio news broadcasts.

On successive days official spokesmen and independent observers have repeatedly expressed optimism that the final hours of the siege were at hand.

Yesterday, up to 18 prisoners leapt from the roof of A Block, occasionally calling to friends and supporters, despite official insistence that they had run out of food, passing biscuits and drinks among themselves.

Other inmates were said to be elsewhere within the prison.

Teachers urged to give own children a state education

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

THE leader of the heads of Britain's secondary schools yesterday challenged teachers to demonstrate the courage of their convictions by sending their children to state schools.

Mr John Horn, president of the Secondary Heads Association, told its annual conference in Manchester that a worrying proportion of state school teachers were having their own children educated in the private sector.

Although he was unable to provide figures, Mr Horn, headmaster of Oset School, a comprehensive near Wakefield, West Yorkshire, said that some teachers at his school were having their children privately educated.

He said: "We need the

wholehearted commitment of each and every person involved in the delivery of state education in this country."

"Only when all concerned with the state system actually support it, will the public truly believe it can provide the best for all."

"Who buys Surf from a salesman who uses Persil and who buys a Rover from a salesman driving a Saab?"

Mr Horn said that some teachers faced a genuine dilemma in some parts of the country where standards were low. However, he attacked Conservative-controlled Bradford council for offering newly recruited teachers help with private school fees. It showed the "ultimate lack of

confidence" in the system for which the council was responsible. Even worse was the attitude of politicians and leaders of society who shunned state education.

"If Prince William and Prince Henry together with the sons and daughters and grandchildren of ministers, MPs, civil servants and local politicians were all destined for their local comprehensive then the state-maintained education system would be dramatically improved within a very short time," he said.

Mr Horn suggested that ministers should at least spend some time "work shadowing" teachers to see for themselves what happened in state schools. He extended a personal invitation to Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to come to help run his school.

Any attempt by councils whose community charge has been "capped" to make savings by cutting education budgets would be disastrous for pupils, Mr Horn said.

He told the conference that there was "no fat" in school budgets and the consequence of capping would be that teachers would lose their jobs and standards of education would suffer.

Mr John Sutton, general secretary, said: "The unfortunate thing is that children are being used as political footballs in a game being played between local and national government."

"Some local authorities are making the reductions in the most high profile way possible in order to make their political point."

Specialist education pioneered in Hungary to help handicapped children should be more easily available in Britain, Mr Alan Howarth, Under-Secretary of State for Education and Science, said yesterday.

Mr Howarth said that conductive education should be one of a number of options available to parents of handicapped children. Speaking after a visit to the Birmingham Institute of Conductive Education, Mr Howarth said: "The reports of children's progress at the Peto Institute in Budapest are impressive."

"Those parents who have, often at great personal cost, taken their children there have demonstrated a genuine demand which will continue into the foreseeable future."

Private schools seek fees top-up

By David Tytler, Education Editor

INDEPENDENT schools are having to find extra ways to meet rising costs which are no longer covered by fees paid by parents, according to a report published yesterday. Many schools now let out their buildings and arrange summer schools for foreign students.

Rising costs are due largely to increasing teacher salaries, which are about 1 per cent above those paid in state schools, accounting for about three-quarters of a school's budget.

On average, teacher salaries cost £1,785 a pupil in senior boarding schools, £1,344 in day schools, £1,696 in preparatory boarding, £1,069 in day schools. Classroom teachers are paid from about £10,000 a year to £15,000 a year.

The survey of 200 independent schools from MacLachlan Hudson, the accountants for many fee-paying schools, shows that while the costs for pupils have risen fees are falling behind.

Pupils at senior boarding schools in 1988/89 cost on average £4,666 a year compared to £4,313.4 the previous year. Fees are about £7,000 a year. Day school costs rose by £240 to £2,337; boarding prep schools went up £428 to £4,413.

Only the senior boarding schools have put up fees to match costs, fees rising 73 per

cent since 1983 compared to a cost rise of 72 per cent. The figures for day schools are 51 per cent and 47 per cent; preparatory boarding, 93 per cent and 99 per cent; preparatory day, 112 per cent and 114 per cent.

Mr Noble Hanlon, who wrote the report, said: "The figures show that schools are trying very hard not to put all their increased costs on the parents."

A scheme to reduce the factual content of A levels in favour of training in personal and vocational skills has won the backing of the Government's two principal advisory bodies on the School Curriculum (Douglas Broom writes).

The National Curriculum Council and the School Examinations and Assessment Council, in unpublished reports, have agreed that sixth-form students should be required to study fewer facts.

The proposal echoes that of the Higginson committee, whose recommendations to scrap the existing three-subject A-level system and substitute a five-subject sixth form syllabus was rejected by ministers two years ago.

As the new scheme commands the support of the two bodies set up to oversee the Government's education reform programme it will be much harder for ministers to reject it this time.



Mr James Cooper of the National Trust giving a shine to the South Foreland Light



Lighthouse takes off the wraps

THE South Foreland Lighthouse overlooking the notorious Goodwin Sands opens to the public today for the first time. It was built on the Kent coast near Dover in 1850 to warn ships of the dangers of the Goodwin.

It ended its operations 18 months ago and was bought by the National Trust from Trinity House for about £300,000.

It will be opened for the National Trust today by Captain Malcolm Edge, Deputy Master of Trinity House, and can be visited from 2-6pm every Saturday until October.

Drivers set off in race to Peking

By Graham Rock

SEVENTY vehicles were setting off from Marble Arch, central London, today for a 9,000-mile journey from London to Peking.

One early hurdle for the organizers of the "motoring challenge", Voyages Jules Verne, has been a sudden decision by the Russians supplying fuel for the vehicles to increase the price by 9,000 per cent. The company was originally quoted of 40 kopecks a gallon but is now being charged 3 roubles 60 kopecks.

The problem is compounded by an expected strike in the Russian petrol industry so fuel will have to be imported for the Soviet leg.

However, Mr Philip Morrell, managing director of Voyages Jules Verne, said at a press conference yesterday that after protracted negotiations over many years both the Russian and Chinese authorities were fully behind the project. "It would have been easy for them to pull the plug, but they are very enthusiastic and the Russians have created a cordon sanitaire, using 1,500 police, through Georgia and Azerbaijan."

Signor Luigi Barzini, whose grandfather was co-winner of the Peking to Paris race in 1907, was present yesterday and he saluted the drivers, who, he said, were matching the original spirit of the race.

Baron Guy de Wimmel, who had planned to drive a London taxi, had a last-minute set-back when the company preparing his vehicle ran into financial difficulties. The Frenchman instead acquired a Lamborghini to attempt the 9,162 miles.

More than a dozen vehicles will travel on to Hong Kong and one driver, Senhor Jose Lisboa, is even more ambitious.

He hopes to earn a place in the Guinness Book of Records by motoring from Sagres, on the south-western tip of Portugal, joining the tour in Paris, and after Hong Kong continuing to Macao.

Accompanying Mr Lisboa are two South American musicians, and the trio plan to entertain participants and spectators en route.

Relaxation of restrictions by the Mongolian authorities has allowed Voyages Jules Verne to stage a London to New York Motor Challenge next summer via Berlin, Moscow, Siberia, Alaska and Canada.

Football club was 'unfair' to staff

CELTA Football Club was criticized by an industrial tribunal yesterday for the "oppressive way" it dealt with employees after increasing workers' hours without a corresponding pay rise.

However, the Glasgow tribunal rejected a claim of unfair dismissal by a ground maintenance worker, Mr Joseph Conner, because he accepted the new conditions at the time they were imposed — however crudely the changes were effected.

The tribunal said if he had left because of the changes at the time they were enforced, it is difficult to see how his claim could have failed.

Mr Conner, aged 29, of Springboig, Glasgow, was said to have reluctantly agreed to the new working practices but had then reverted to the old system, taken unauthorized time off, and been dismissed.

Church pay plan

A report to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland on Monday will propose that ministers' stipends should be related to incomes produced by their parishes. It says the present minimum is £10,863 and a maximum, but salaries between £13,670 and £14,069 could be paid where congregations raised £48,000 to £53,000.

Food unit fear

The food science and nutrition department at King's College Medical School, in south-east London, faces closure under plans involving expansion in other areas, it was claimed yesterday. Dr Peter Emery, college secretary of the Association of University Teachers, said work on food safety was at risk.

Cards plea

Officials at the Royal Marsden Hospital have asked the public to stop sending get-well cards to Craig Shegolev, of Carshalton, Surrey, because they are still being inundated with them five months after the 10-year-old cancer patient entered the Guinness Book of Records for receiving the most cards, after five million.

Teenage crime

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Conservative MP for Birmingham Selly Oak, has called for tighter controls on young offenders after two boys aged 14 and 16 went on a crime spree, stealing goods worth £100,000 while on bail.

Last-minute holidays in short supply

By Tom Giles

PROSPECTS of booking a last-minute spring holiday abroad seemed slender yesterday as airlines and tour operators reported greater demand for fewer holidays.

Despite pessimistic forecasts from many agents after a slump in package holidays last summer, there have been record Easter bookings to the Caribbean, the Canaries and the US.

The Association of British Travel Agents said tour companies had "over-compensated" for high interest rates by cutting packages from 12

million to 10 million at the end of last year. That could cause a shortage of summer holidays.

"There is not a lot of room for manoeuvre in the holiday business and they got their fingers burned last year," Mr Keith Betton, ABTA's spokesman, said. He attributed the strength of the market to high interest rates increasing the incomes of those without mortgages.

Intasun, one of Britain's largest tour companies, which cut 500,000 holidays last year, has reported a "sell-out" Easter with 50,000 holiday-makers expected to fly out during the

holiday period. "Over the last few weeks it has been virtually impossible to find a seat anywhere and relying on a late booking could be very risky," Mr Roger Heaps, Intasun's managing director, said.

Thomson's, which is offering one million fewer holidays this year, said that 97 per cent of its aircraft seats were filled for April.

Over 80,000 people are due to fly out of Manchester Airport next weekend despite a 3 per cent drop in flights compared to last spring. Staff at Heathrow are preparing for a daily onslaught of 110,000 holidaymakers

as the airport predicted its busiest-ever Easter.

Gatwick Airport said its passenger numbers were up 20 per cent on last year with 250,000 expected to fly out over the Easter weekend.

British Airways said yesterday that it would be laying on 18 extra shuttle flights from Heathrow to Belfast over the holiday weekend because of record demand.

But the glut of foreign holidays is likely to provide little relief for the roads. The Automobile Association has already predicted Bank holiday "chaos" in several black-spots.

Scots gold mine on way

By Kerry Gill

ONLY yards away from a Scottish Highland tunnel, where 18th-century miners toiled in their search for lead, lies a modest fortune in gold ready to be extracted by the autumn of 1991.

After five years of investigations in west Perthshire, prospectors are confident that gold can be mined on a sound commercial basis from a site four miles up the Cononish Valley near the village of Tyndrum.

Ennex International, the Dublin-based company whose employees have tunnelled more than 900 metres into the

hillside, hopes to extract millions of pounds worth of gold in the coming decade.

Ironically, the gold, and even greater quantities of silver, has been discovered in the same area where local miners prospected for lead during the 1750s. However, Mr John Kelly, Ennex's chief mining engineer, said the miners of yesterday would never have noticed the gold because it is so fine.

Only modern analytical methods have enabled the company to pinpoint the deposits of gold and silver, but 20th-century technology is ex-

pected to produce a yield worth £75 million.

Once full production begins, almost 100 people will be employed in Scotland's most unlikely new industry with many more indirect jobs created in the area. The company hopes to submit its planning application within the next eight months, to allow production to start before the end of next year.

Mr David Coyle, of Ennex, said there was potential for more mining operations in the gold-bearing belt that crosses Scotland to a point near Aberfeldy, east of Loch Tay.

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A COMPANY OF BARRATT DEVELOPMENTS

£1bn funding with government Bill may save rail link

By Michael Dynes, Transport Correspondent

THE Government is considering assuming responsibility for piloting legislation for the controversial £3.5 billion Channel tunnel rail link through Parliament in the form of a hybrid Bill, it was disclosed yesterday.

The Bill is expected to include a substantial amount of public funding, ostensibly for improved commuter services in Kent, which will share the line between Folkestone and King's Cross with the international services, effectively making the 68-mile rail link financially viable.

Abandonment of the proposed private Bill would remove uncertainty over the project, provide greater flexibility in introducing the measure into the legislative timetable, and all but guarantee its passage through Parliament.

Treasury opposition to the proposed subsidy, thought to be about £1 billion, would have to be overturned by the Cabinet, but without a change in legislative strategy and the infusion of public money, the high-speed rail link is dead, sources say.

The Government's reconsideration of legislative tactics

and the need for a public subsidy follow submissions by British Rail, Trafalgar House and BICC, the three partners that will build and operate the link, of proposals for routing the inter-continental trains into central London from Swanley, Kent.

An earlier proposal to route the trains into King's Cross in an 18-mile tunnel under south-east London were abandoned in November because of rising construction costs, although BR's existing preferred route from Swanley to Folkestone remains intact.

Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Transport, is not expected to announce the final route until next month. However, it is understood that the alignment runs entirely along existing rail corridors, before descending into a tunnel under the Thames and the City of London, and arriving at King's Cross.

The existing main rail corridors go from Swanley to Chislehurst, Hither Green, New Cross, London Bridge and Charing Cross; and from Swanley to Bromley, Beckenham, Brixton and Victoria, with a loop from Bromley to

Catford, Elephant and Castle, and Blackfriars.

BR, Trafalgar House and BICC have proposed two routes into King's Cross, one involving construction of a sub-surface junction at Warwick Gardens, Pockham, for access to Waterloo.

Both options are said to involve the demolition of considerably less property than the previous tunnel option, although widening existing rail corridors will result in some loss of garden space, likely to be compensated for by "noise protection".

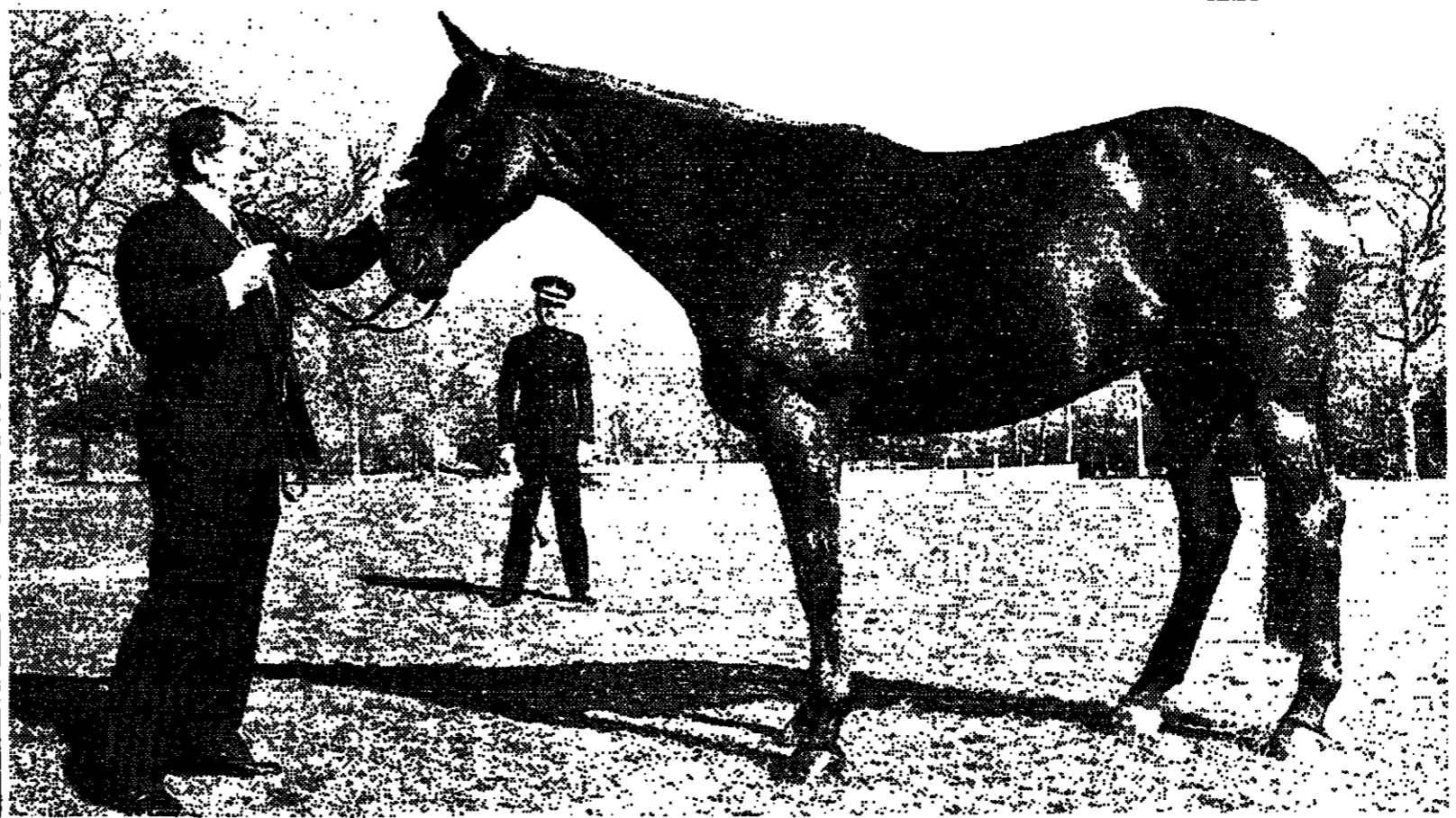
BR's private-sector partners are confident of "something around an 18 per cent return on investment in the scheme."

Section 42 of the 1987 Channel Tunnel Act prohibits any form of subsidy for international rail services, so the Government will effectively have to "launder" the required funds through BR's Public Service Obligation, the annual subsidy, without amending existing legislation.

Government subsidy would bring improvement to services for Kent commuters said to be "unachievable by any other means".

Well adjusted start to life in the cavalry

DENZIL MCNEELANCE



Mr Monty Roberts and Lt Col Gordon Birdwood, commanding officer of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, with Port Stanley

By Alan Hamilton

GELDING he may be, but Port Stanley is still a real gentleman. So good-natured and trusting, his friends say. Could it be because he is one of the few members of Her Majesty's Armed Forces ever to be trained, not by harking and punishment, but by kindness? Or is it because he has seen his analyst? Port Stanley, a five-year old Irish crossbred in training with the Household Cavalry, is the product

of an unusual experiment. He has been exposed to the attentions of a Californian psychologist.

Mr Monty Roberts, who has been training horses and studying the equine mind on the West Coast since he was three years old, was summoned to Windsor by the Queen last year when she heard of his pioneering method of getting a horse to accept a human on its back for the first time. While instructing some of the Duke of Edinburgh's polo ponies and a chase filly for Queen Elizabeth the

Queen Mother, he was seen by a cavalry corporal-major, who decided to apply the Roberts approach to the year's intake of 12 new recruits. Mr Roberts called at Hyde Park Barracks yesterday to inspect progress. The cavalry professed themselves well satisfied. "I apply the Gorbachov thought pattern to the horse," Mr Roberts explained. "Turn them loose. Let them be free. Never say, 'You must.' He claims he can achieve in a day what takes up to three weeks by conventional training methods."

Barristers to fight rule on employment

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

THE Bar Council may be taken to court by four barristers it is threatening to disbar because they have gone into employment with accountancy firms.

The barristers, who have until April 30 to disbar themselves or face "disciplinary action" by the Bar Council, are also raising the matter of their professional body's action with the Lord Chancellor.

The issue is being seen as an important test case with implications for 500 to 600 other barristers employed by firms of solicitors and accountants

or in commerce and industry. One of the four, Mr Reginald Nock, a leading tax barrister who last year joined Deloitte, Haskins and Sells, said the Bar Council's action might well be a restraint of trade.

The group (three of whom are with accountants, one with a VAT consultancy firm) is considering a range of legal options, including judicial review of the Bar Council's action; or legal proceedings under the terms of the Fair Trading Act.

Mr Nock said they were determined to fight the issue. "My firm personally does not care if I can call myself a barrister or not but it is important to display solidarity over this. If the Bar is successful against us, they will obviously chase up many more."

The Bar Council action put "all sorts of barristers — those working in bank trustee departments, with licensed conveyancers or with solicitors — under threat".

Under the Bar's rules, employed barristers can only provide legal advice to the firm they work in and its employees. They are not allowed to give legal advice to clients.

Mr Nock said: "They are saying if I give any form of legal advice, which includes tax advice, to partners of the firm, or managers of the firm, and that advice may accrue directly or indirectly for the benefit of the firm, then I am breaking the rules."

This meant he was not allowed, as an employed barrister (rather than one in private practice) to represent any client, anywhere. "If you take a VAT tribunal, for instance, anyone under the tribunal's rules can appear to represent a client, except me, as an employed barrister."

The four, who are seeking further details from the Bar Council, also intend to raise the matter with the Lord Chancellor. "We may seek him to take up the issue with the Bar."

"If what the Bar is doing is indirectly to frustrate the whole purpose of his legal reforms, he won't be too pleased."

A Bar Council working party under Mr Justice Mummery is looking at the question of employed barristers and is expected to report in about two months.

Solicitors form new grouping

By Frances Gibb

THE largest national law group in Britain has been created with the link-up of the big City solicitors' practice, Norton Rose, and the six-firm regional network known as the M5 Group.

The group, which will be about half the size of the Crown Prosecution Service, will have more than 800 lawyers, including 261 partners, and a total of 2,470 staff.

Members of the Norton Rose M5 Group alliance will operate independently on behalf of their own clients, but each firm will contribute to the costs of a new service company, in Birmingham, based on the existing umbrella company for the M5 Group.

This will co-ordinate activities such as training, recruitment and technology systems and will form a strategy for the group as a whole and promote it.

Mr Tony Kay, managing partner of Norton Rose, said that the formal association would give the firms advantages in terms of serving clients, and in recruitment.

British Coal announced yesterday that its 125-staff legal services department is to merge from May 1 with Nabarro Nathanson, one of the country's largest law firms, with more than 600 legal and other staff. British Coal will keep 10 in-house legal staff to deal with issues "at the heart of the industry".

Red lion returns to boost British eggs

By Michael Horasby, Agriculture Correspondent

After 22 years in retirement, the "little red lion" is to return in a blaze of culinary patriotism on Monday as part of a £1 million campaign to boost sales of the salmonella-be-devilled British egg.

The beast's last starring role was with Tony Hancock in the "Go to work on an egg" TV commercials of the late 1960s. Its image will reappear not on the eggs themselves, as before, but on egg boxes and packs, above the word "British" in bold blue letters.

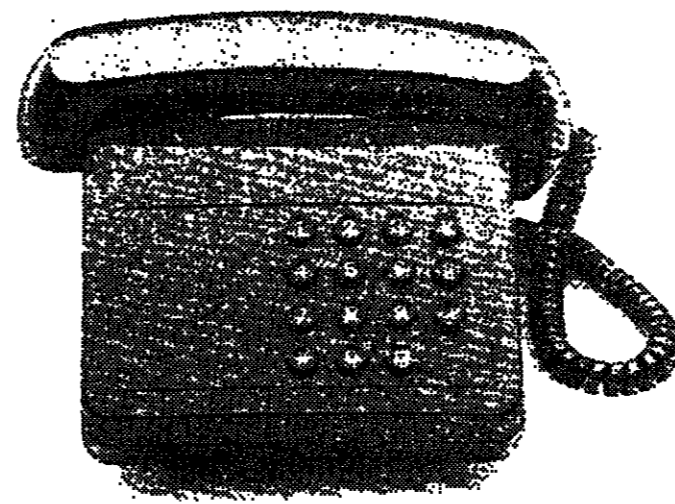
"The lion mark is the consumer's assurance that the eggs inside the box are produced under stringent UK hygiene legislation," Mr John Coles, chairman of the British



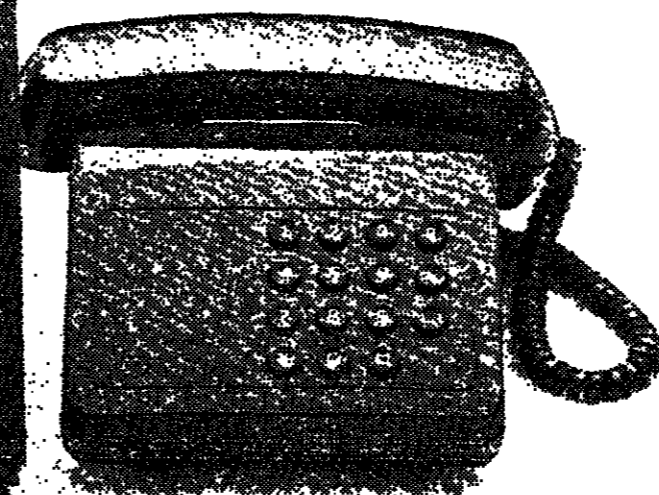
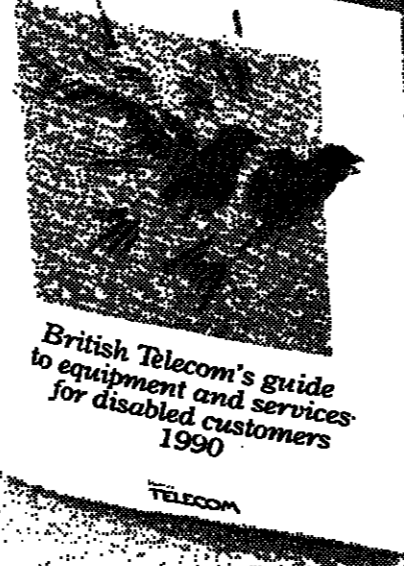
Egg Industry Council, said. Only producers belonging to the council, which accounts for about 75 per cent of output, can use the trademark.

The scheme is designed to distinguish home-produced from foreign eggs and halt a long-term decline in sales.

If you're disabled, it's not easy to use.



If you're disabled, it's easy to use.



75% of disabled people in this country use the telephone.

Yet the figure could be higher.

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Newcomers take exception to the realities of rural life

Farmers on the retreat as vocal townies move in

WHO would want to live next to a pigsty? Hungry pigs are the noisiest of neighbours, and when the wind is in the wrong direction the smell can be more resonant than the squealing.

Breeders have worked for centuries to mould their animals to desired standards of feed-conversion and leanness, but have paid little attention to producing the dulcet pig. As for the fragrant one, it is probably beyond the reach of science.

So anyone moving to a house near a pig unit should know what to expect. But one by-product of the transformation of many villages from self-contained agricultural communities to commuter suburbs has been to bring in many newcomers who never suspected that a pigsty might be nifty.

Others are disillusioned to find that cows are incontinent, or that poultry wake up at the crack of dawn.

Many "incomers" are affronted if farm animals fail to conform to the neighbourly standards they set themselves. It is a growing source of village conflict between new residents and farmers.

Disputes are one reason why an increasing number of farmers are considering leaving their traditional farmsteads and moving to modern buildings out of the way of the neighbours.

Mr Edwin Mount has had enough of being plagued by "roosters" — his name for the vocal outsiders who have been at the forefront of protest against the piggery which has been operating at Manor Farm, in the village of Waltham on the Wolds, Leicestershire, for more than 30 years. The village is only 10 miles from Grantham station, which puts it comfortably within the London commuter belt for today's businessmen.

Mr Mount's 500 pigs live only 200 yards from the village's shops, and the site is so cramped that big livestock lorries cannot get in and out. When a load of pigs is sent

At Lichfield magistrates' court on Monday, a Staffordshire farmer faces a fine of up to £2,000 or six months in prison if he fails to comply with a district council order to "abate" the smell of the "environmentally friendly" manure he uses.

Other farmers are moving out of their village farmyards to more isolated spots as rivalries between townies and the agricultural community threaten to resurface in a new and more aggressive form. George Hill investigates

away, they have to be brought out on a trailer, and transferred in the village street.

"It is inconvenient for everyone, although most people apart from the 'roosters' accept that we do our best to minimize the nuisance," Mr Mount says. "So when I wanted to expand I thought it really wasn't politic putting up a new piggery so near the middle of the village. We asked the planning authorities to come and advise us, and they suggested we apply for permission to relocate."

There was a shortage of low-cost starter homes locally, and it was suggested that the cost of the move could be met by building 15 homes on the site of the 100-year old farm. A petition in support of the homes plan was signed by 120 longstanding inhabitants.

The newcomers, however, regarded modern housing as a prospect even more unattractive than the pigs. Influential voices were raised in opposition.

A revised plan was prepared, taking account of reservations made by the highways authority, but the planners raised fresh objections. The revised plan is now going to appeal.

To the new influx of inhabitants the countryside is not a working environment, but a haven of peace and beauty away from the modern world — and they want to keep it that way. "In the village where I farm, everybody has given up dairy farming, because it creates too much aggro with neighbours who complain about the cows mooing in the early morning," Mr Simon

Kinnersley, whose 500-acre farm is only six miles from Bristol, says.

"But I must admit farmers have been at fault in some ways, and we need to adapt. You can't run the grain dryer all night, or leave a foot of mud on the road, because people won't have it."

Mr Ralph Elston, who has a 60-acre farm near Crediton, Devon, has decided to move his farmstead away from the 100-house estate which has sprung up at his gate and relocate operations in the middle of his land.

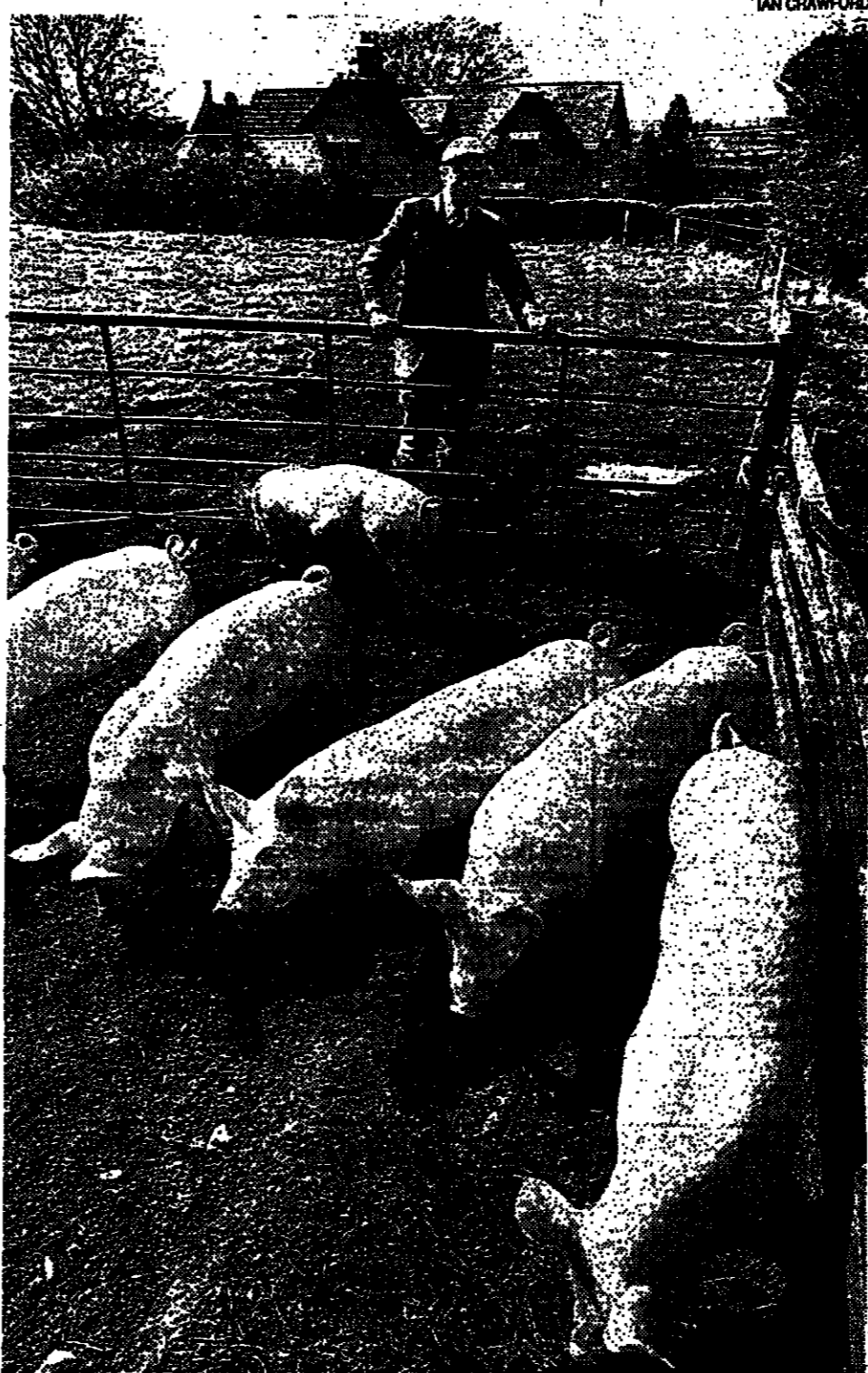
"I work alone, and sometimes I am still out on the tractor as late as midnight. Then I get phone calls to say I am keeping the callers awake. Sometimes the calls are anonymous, and abusive."

Objectors to agricultural mess and noise point out that the industry has become more mechanised.

Mechanical trimming of hedgerows saves labour, but shatters the illusion that one might find John Constable with his easel under the next pollard-oak. Intensive methods of keeping livestock generate rivers of slurry, far more vicious than the less potent traditional mix of straw and dung, readily recycled back into the soil.

"People moving into the country don't necessarily appreciate that a community cannot stand still — it must change," Mr Roy John, planning adviser to the Country Landowners' Association, says.

Mr John and other people with an overview of planning issues have the impression



Mr Edwin Mount with some of the pigs that have irked his neighbours. He wants to move the animals out of the village but finding a compromise acceptable to all is proving difficult

that an increasing number of farmers are choosing to move their farmsteads out of villages. If the existing buildings can be turned into housing, or the site can be redeveloped, the move can make irresistible financial sense.

Mr Kinnersley foresees even more drastic changes to the countryside as friction between commuter-belt farm-

ers and the new breed of villagers intensifies.

"One of the attractions of farming is that it is a nice way of life. If farmers get too much friction, they may just chuck it in. There is a glut of food production in Europe. Farmers are already being subsidised just for keeping their land idle. I wouldn't be surprised if most of the farmland

in commuter areas was eventually managed as parkland."

Even the "roosters" might find that prospect faintly chilling. Having won the battle for the countryside, the newcomers might grow nostalgic for the dust and clatter of the combine harvester, the grunt of the foraging sow, even for the fragrance of the drying cowpat.

Scots demand wider use of fishing curbs

By Kerry Gill

FISHERMEN operating off the west of Scotland have demanded the enforcement of an exclusion zone stretching from Cape Wrath to the Mull of Kintyre to protect stocks from east coast vessels hit by stringent quota restrictions.

Men of the relatively small western fleet fear that the North Sea quota cuts in haddock and cod will result in the advanced east coast vessels plundering their waters in an effort to remain economically viable. The newly-

formed West Coast Fisheries Action Group, made up of all the local fishery associations in the west, is to press the Government to order an exclusion zone every weekend during the summer to conserve local fishing.

If the Government agrees, the zone would cover a huge area from the north of Scotland across to the Mull of Lewis, south through the Minch to the Mull of Kintyre, and six miles out from the Western Isles.

The formation of the action group, which overcame historic rivalries between local fisheries, is seen as a sign of the fishermen's concern that their livelihood could be destroyed by the big east coast fleet. There are only 126 western vessels over 80 ft, but there are several hundred operating off north-east Scotland.

A meeting is expected to be held with Mr John Gummer, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and Mr Scotland's counterpart, Lord Sanderson, within the coming few weeks. The group has also won the backing of local authorities.

Mr Angus Graham, chairman of the action group, said it would seek talks with the Scottish Fishermen's Federation in spite of a suspicion that the organisation favours the east coast industry.

He said the fishing ban would affect all vessels and last from May until September. It would include demersal fish, such as haddock and cod, prawns and scallops. The Western Isles Fishermen's Association, however, have called for the weekend ban to last throughout the year.

To protect the grounds from over-fishing by east coast boats, the group wants the Government to create two new licensing areas. One would be permitted to fish, although some east coast vessels which have traditionally fished the area would be allowed licences.

Special allowances would have to be made for fishing around Rockall by the Aberdeen Producers' Organisation and some Orkney and Shetland trawlers.

Artificial tongue will trace meat impurities

By Nick Nuttall Technology Correspondent

BRITISH scientists are developing an "optical tongue" which may eventually be used to detect pesticides and other hazardous chemicals in meat.

The device is being initially designed to pinpoint excessive levels of sex hormones in pork from male pigs. The research team, however, believes there is evidence that the artificial "tasting" technology could be adapted to spot other undesirable meat contaminants.

The project, by PA Consulting Group of Cambridge, is receiving £12 million in funding from the Danish Bacon and Meat Council.

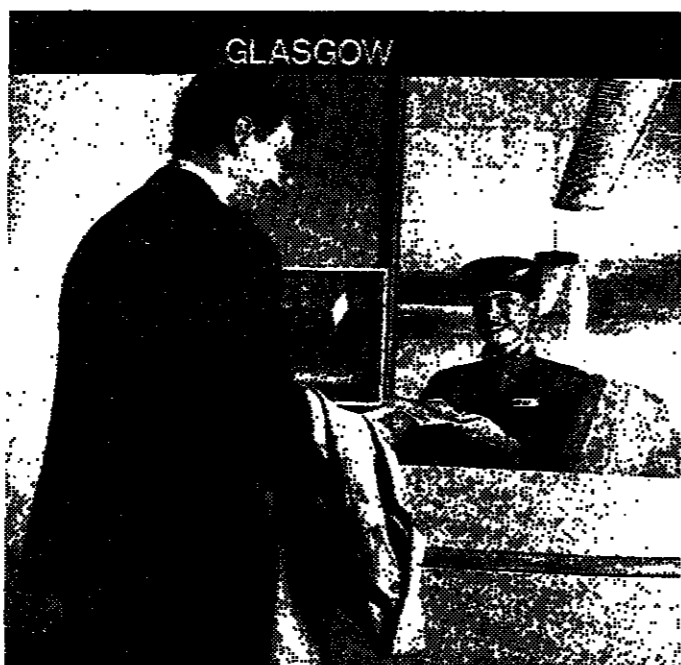
High levels of hormones in male pigs or boars cost farmers millions of pounds in lost sales. They lead to the development of a chemical called skatole that taints hams and bacon with a foul smell.

Researchers have discovered that if a boar's fat sample is chemically dissolved it can be studied under a machine called an ultra-violet spectrophotometer which creates a coloured, chemical fingerprint of the fat.

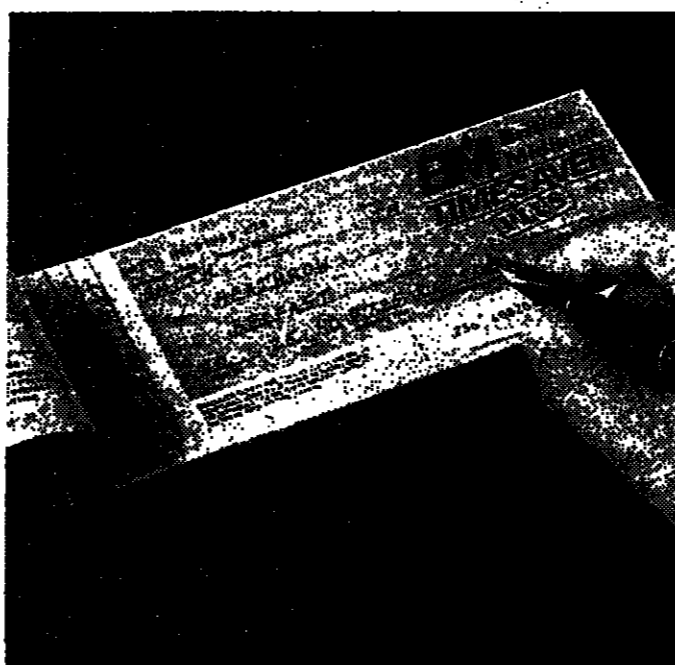
Dr Keith Ridler, chief executive of the PA's Technology Division, said there was now a belief that the system could be used to pinpoint pesticides.

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Troops and police fire on protests in Nepal

From Ian Sweet, Kathmandu, and Christopher Thomas, Delhi

POLICE and troops fired on an estimated 50,000 to 100,000 pro-democracy demonstrators on the streets of Kathmandu yesterday as Nepal was gripped by protests and a national strike.

There were unconfirmed reports of up to 10 deaths as the police were given blanket authorization to open fire. One protester fell wounded in front of journalists watching from a hotel roof.

On the police communication system, on which anyone can eavesdrop, an army request was relayed for more ammunition. The wounded were carried away in ambulances. However, medical officers were on strike so that none of the injured police or army was helped by medical officials.

The government-run Bir Hospital also faced difficulty treating the many casualties as the strike had left it with only an emergency service. Doctors were said to be operating non-stop.

The demonstration began peacefully but turned ugly as police guards in primitive flak jackets and brandishing bamboo canes, who had been stationed along routes to the royal palace for the previous 12 hours in expectation of trouble, were taunted by the demonstrators. As the protest neared the streets to the palace, stones were thrown both at the police and hotels and shops lining the routes. Many monuments were defaced and damaged.

The police and Army used tear gas and began spasmodic firing. Then the two sides began charging and attacking each other.

Pro-democracy protests also erupted in other parts of Nepal, despite the earlier dismissal of the Government and a royal proclamation approving negotiations with militants. Witnesses said at least two people were killed and scores injured in the western town of Butwan.

King Birendra of Nepal has

dismissed his Prime Minister, dissolved the Cabinet and assumed substantial emergency powers.

The Nepal opposition, most of it operating underground, announced plans to burn the national constitution on Monday. The Government has intensified its round-up of suspected agitators, holding most of them in makeshift detention centres.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has been refused permission to go to Nepal to investigate detention conditions and make a tally of prisoners. It is known only that hundreds of people are held.

Mr Manish Man Singh Shrestha, the Prime Minister, resigned late on Thursday, although nothing was announced until yesterday. He has been replaced by Mr Lokesh Chandra Bahadur.

Under emergency powers extended to the King by the partyless Rashtriya Panchayat (national assembly), the King has been empowered to dissolve the Government and the Panchayat and to suspend various articles of the constitution.

The dismissed Cabinet was reshuffled only five days previously, after the resignation of Mr S. K. Upreti, the Foreign Minister. The King's drastic action demonstrates the intensity of the challenge to Nepal's peculiar brand of semi-democracy.

In recent days, security forces have encountered some of the biggest demonstrations since the pro-democracy movement re-emerged seven weeks ago. Six people were killed when police fired on 30,000 demonstrators.

The banned United National People's Movement has led a series of widely observed strike calls that are causing increasing disruption. The top leaders of the banned Nepalese National Congress, which supports the unrest, are either in hiding or under-house arrest.

Punjab gripped by Sikh violence

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

THE four-month-old peace initiative of the Indian Government in Punjab is foundering after a week of remorseless violence by Sikh extremists, aimed primarily at "soft" Hindu targets.

The Indian Parliament has extended direct rule over the strife-torn state for six months, as an official report warned of a deepening crisis in Punjab and Kashmir.

Twelve people died when a bomb exploded on a Delhi-bound bus in the northern state of Haryana late on Thursday night — the second bomb attack against Hindus in two days. Forty-eight people died in a day of carnage on Tuesday.

The terrorists' tactics seem calculated to inflame Indian opinion. Delhi marketplaces closed in a one-day demonstration against Sikh violence, including the tourist area of Connaught Place.

The protest was organized by the Bharatiya Janata Party, a militant Hindu organization that is building its strength on Hindu outrage over events in Punjab and Kashmir.

The extent of the stoppage, organized with remarkable speed, was a clear demonstration of the party's growing influence among rank-and-file Hindus.

An annual report by the Home Ministry on the state of law and order during 1988-89 spoke of "great strain" in Punjab and Kashmir. It said

caste and communal tensions had increased in several areas of the country, particularly in the big northern states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. The law enforcement machinery was under strain.

The report also pointed to increased violence by left-wing extremists known as Naxalites. An organization called the People's War Group carried out attacks that spread through five states.

The findings confirmed a trend of increasing violence between Hindus and Muslims because of a dispute over a religious site at Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh. The issue provoked 40 large-scale riots in Rajasthan, Bihar, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Kashmir, the report said.

Punjab and Kashmir represent the greatest threat. The Lok Sabha (lower house) voted almost unanimously to extend direct rule in Punjab, in spite of protests by Sikh militants.

The militants now control many areas of the state. They have forced schools to stop singing the Indian anthem and have banned the use of the Hindi language. In some areas, students are forced to wear saffron clothes — the colour of martyrdom and Sikh militancy. Schoolteachers who refuse to carry out instructions are shot, sometimes in front of children.

Arafat finds a welcome in Rome



MR Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, exchanging greetings with the Pope at a two-day visit to Italy (Paul Bonapart writes from Rome). Mr Arafat thanked the Pope for his support of the Palestinians "in difficult moments". They had already met in 1982 and 1988. On

Thursday Mr Arafat had talks with Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Italian Prime Minister. Signor Gianni De Michelis, the Foreign Minister, and President Cossiga. This is the first time an Italian President has received Mr Arafat, a clear sign of increasing Italian support for the Palestinian cause. After their meeting, the Italian President

assured Mr Arafat that when it takes over the European presidency in July, Italy will do all it can to further the Palestinian cause. Italian openness towards the PLO goes back to the early 1980s, when Signor Andreotti was Foreign Minister, but this is the strongest expression so far of Italian support for the Palestinians.

Britain and Peking in clash over Hong Kong

By Andrew McEwen in London and Jonathan Brande in Hong Kong

MR Francis Maude, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, who flew to Hong Kong yesterday to try to stem the exodus of skilled workers, urged China to stop criticizing its proposals to give British passports to up to 225,000 Hong Kong people.

But in what appeared to be a swift response to Mr Maude's comments on Hong Kong radio, the most senior Chinese official in the territory warned Britain not to do anything to damage stability and prosperity or to introduce any legislation which might conflict with the Basic Law.

Mr Zhou Nan, the head of the New China News Agency, China's de facto consulate in Hong Kong, also called on Britain to co-operate with China in developing mutual understanding before 1997.

His comments were interpreted as a renewed attack on the Nationality Bill, which China claims will undermine confidence in the territory and cause an outflow of Hong Kong's best brains and talents. They were also seen as an assault on British plans to introduce a Bill of Rights to protect human rights in the territory.

China has made it clear that the basic law, Hong Kong's post-1997 mini-constitution, must be supreme over all other laws and that a Bill of Rights would conflict with the basic law unless it had no more validity than any other local legislation.

Before leaving Britain Mr Maude made it clear that China's negative reaction to the scheme was damaging Britain's attempts to restore confidence among the 5.7 million residents.

"The most important thing that can happen in order to reaffirm confidence in Hong Kong is for sensible things to be said by the Chinese Government and for them not to attack measures we take in order to help Hong Kong have the best possible long-term future," he said in an interview with Radio Television Hong Kong.

Growing Arab arsenal leads to Israeli rethink

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

RAPID proliferation of advanced weapons in the Arab world is tilting the strategic balance in the Middle East against Israel, Israeli defence experts have concluded.

Three dramatic developments this week have highlighted the new threat: Iraq's threat to use chemical weapons against Israel; the revelation that Egypt, with the help of Argentina, is developing a nuclear capability; and — less noticed than the other two, but no less alarming for Israel — the deployment by Iraq of surface-to-surface missiles on its border with Jordan.

These moves follow the interception at Heathrow of nuclear-trigger devices intended for Iraq, and the formation of joint Iraqi-Jordanian army brigades and air squadrons.

According to Dr Avi Becker, an expert on nuclear weapons at Bar Ilan University, the Arab-Israeli conflict has reached "a major watershed". Dr Becker says that threats by "a crazy Arab leader" — a reference to President Saddam Hussein — coincide with Arab weapons developments which pose a "major threat to the international order" as well as to the Middle East regional balance.

Dr Gerald Steinberg, a lecturer in defence studies at the same university, says the Middle East has reached "a critical point in history".

"The Middle East is heading for a crisis very similar to the types of crisis which marked the relations in the early 1960s between the United States and the Soviet Union which culminated in the Cuban missile crisis," Dr Steinberg said.

Dr Yossi Olmert, a specialist in Arab affairs and head of the Government Press Department, said: "Iraq is developing chemical weapons, biological weapons and nuclear weapons. All these are deadly threats to the peace and stability of the entire Middle East, but particularly to the state of Israel."

The official Israeli reaction is — in the words of Dr Olmert — that "we are not panicking". Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, reminded the Arab world this week that Israel "knows how to defend itself".

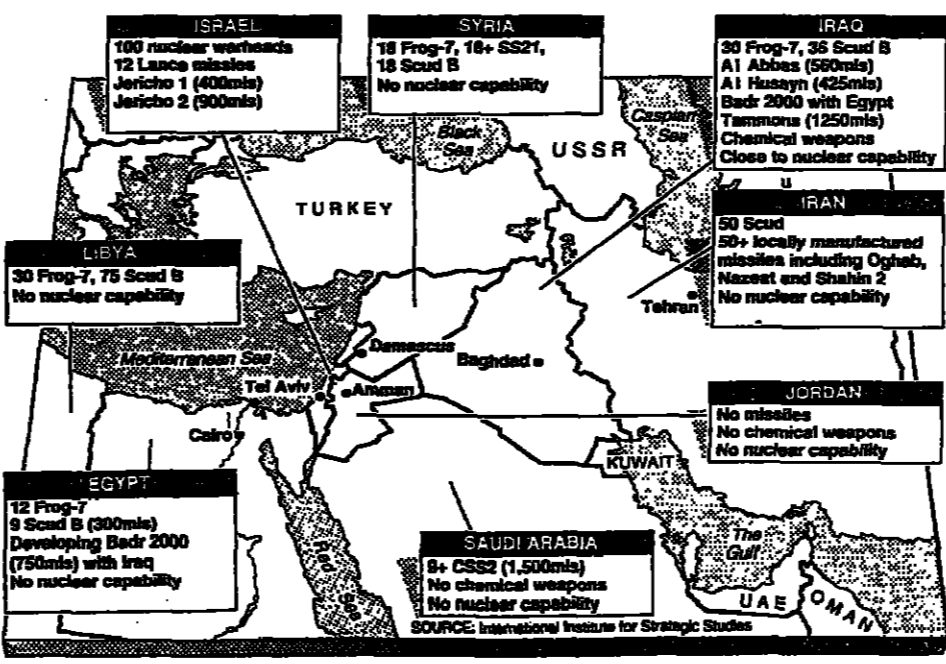
None the less, there is deep concern behind the scenes, coupled with growing calls for a reassessment of Israeli strategy. Israel's trump card remains its alleged possession of nuclear weapons technology.

The official Israeli position is that Israel will never be the first country to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East. Some senior officials can be heard suggesting that Israel should "go open in its nuclear option". But the prevailing view remains that "nuclear ambiguity" is probably a more effective deterrent.

According to Dr Dore Gold, an arms control expert at the Hebrew University, the need for an Israeli reassessment is based on two factors. There has, Dr Gold maintains, been an erroneous assumption recently that, as diplomatic moves towards a settlement of the Palestinian question continue, most of the Arab world has "implicitly accepted Israel's existence".

This is partly based, he says, on the fact that both Iraq and Syria have restored their links with Egypt, having previously shunned Cairo because of its 1979 peace treaty with Israel. But, Dr Gold asserts, the rapprochement between the radical Arab states and Egypt has little to do with Israel and a great deal more to do with Egypt's standing in the Arab world.

The second factor, in Dr Gold's analysis, is the possible replacement of Syria by Iraq as the "primary threat to Israel".



Black radicals gain ground in South Africa

From Gavin Bell, Cape Town

THE African National Congress has emerged from the first round of its political contest with the South African Government slightly ahead.

By gaining the tacit support of most of the self-governing homeland leaders, the ANC has scored a technical knockout on a potential adversary. But other formidable opponents are gaining strength and preparing to enter the ring.

In the mêlée of on-off exploratory talks between the most prominent parties to the negotiation process this week, one organization was missing — the Pan Africanist Movement. Generally dismissed as a small minority of radicals, the movement is rapidly growing in stature in the townships with emotive appeals to black unity and power.

Formed in February as an umbrella for Africanist aspirations, which preclude any form of power-sharing with the white minority, its officials say almost half a million membership cards are being printed, and they cannot keep pace with demand. It is particularly strong in the western Cape and Johannesburg area, making inroads in the eastern Cape, and gaining ground in Transkei, the homeland of Mr Nelson Mandela and other Xhosa-speaking ANC leaders.

"The Africanists are undoubtedly coming up fast, particularly among militant youths who regard the ANC as a bourgeois organization," a senior diplomat says. "There is no question that they are a threat to the ANC and to the Government."

He says that far from being a loose formation of inarticulate radicals, the movement has a core of intellectuals arguably larger than that of the ANC. "If one were to take the 1,000 best black brains in the country, one would find a majority sympathetic to Africanist ideals."

Mr Barney Desai, regional co-ordinator in the western

Cape, took its crusade into an ANC stronghold yesterday when he opened a branch office in Mitchell's Plain, a Coloured (mixed race) township near Cape Town.

Vilifying the ANC for negotiating with the Government, he declared: "It smells. It would appear that the ANC is well on the way to transforming itself into the Anglo National Congress. Our principles are clear. Apartheid must be dismantled in its entirety."

The outcome of President de Klerk's talks with disparate black leaders this week is that preliminary negotiations with the ANC are back on course, but his strategy of drawing more moderate black figures into the process is seriously undermined. Even if the ruling National Party and the ANC reach a settlement, there are doubts whether it would be acceptable to most blacks, let alone the white community.

As the next round approaches, only Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Chief Minister of the KwaZulu homeland and leader of the conservative Inkatha movement, remains in the ring as a counterpoint to the ANC. He is a powerful figure, but is in danger of becoming isolated in his Natal stronghold.

Meanwhile, the Africanists are waiting for an opportunity to enter the fray in earnest. ● JOHANNESBURG: Seven more people, including two women and a policeman, have been killed as violence continues unabated in Natal (Ray Kennedy writes).

Police patrols opened fire with pistols, shotguns and rifles against attackers, but there were casualties in only one incident, near Ladysmith, where a man was killed and another wounded by police gunfire, according to an official police report yesterday.

Three policemen were shot and wounded in the attacks, the report said. It made no mention of any action involving troops.

Big cutbacks end Swedish dream

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

SWEDEN adopted one of the most drastic austerity packages in its post-war history yesterday. It signals an end to the socialist reforms that have made its population of 8.5 million, one of the most pampered but increasingly least productive in Western Europe.

In what many local industrialists see as a belated and feeble attempt to make the nation more competitive on world markets and cut spending at home, Mr Ingvar Carlsson, the Prime Minister, who heads a minority Social Democratic administration, made a deal with the Liberals to push the controversial package through Parliament.

Still more drastic measures along the lines demanded by industry, which included a wage freeze and a ban on strikes, led to the temporary defeat of his Government earlier this year.

The cost of living in Sweden, already one of the highest in Europe, will go up immediately. The main effects will flow from the lifting of a price and rents freeze and the raising of value added tax from 23.46 per cent to 25 per cent, pushing up prices of food and many services that recently became subject to VAT, in addition to luxury goods.

In a move to cut workplace absenteeism, one of the main causes of declining productivity, the Government will put an end to the present system under which workers report sick and are immediately compensated for the bulk of their loss of pay merely by telephoning an answering device at their local national insurance office, with no obligation to produce a doctor's certificate for one week.

Poll result challenged by Tekere

Harare — Mr Edgar Tekere, leader of Zimbabwe's badly bruised political opposition in last week's elections, yesterday dismissed the result of the voting as the outcome of rigging, irregularities and illegality (Jan Raath writes).

He told a press conference that he and his officials were collecting details of alleged vote-rigging and would use their final results as a means to challenge in court the victory of President Mugabe and his ruling Zanu (PF) party. He claimed that the Zimbabwe Unity Movement's (ZUM) election agents had been refused permission to enter polling stations.

Jail terms for 23 islanders

Papeete, French Polynesia — A jury sentenced 23 islanders to prison after finding them guilty of torturing and burning to death six people in a frenzied witch hunt in the South Pacific paradise.

The jury at the Tribunal of Papeete handed down the penalties ranging from three to 14 years' imprisonment for those who took part in the slaying during two horror-filled days in 1987. (AP)

Princess held on tax charges

Rome — Princess Irene Galitzine, a former queen of Italian high fashion and the inventor of the famous "pajazzo pyjamas", was arrested in Rome on Thursday on charges of tax evasion (Paul Bonapart writes).

The 32-year-old, dressed Elizabeth Taylor, Audrey Hepburn, Jacqueline Onassis and members of Europe's royal families.

Americans seize the chance to feel good about doing badly

From Charles Bremner New York

THE cameras zoom in to a handcuffed teenage killer in New York. "Jones" lawyers say the young man lacks self-esteem, the reporter intones. In Detroit, the chief school psychologist this week opposes the introduction of uniforms to curb violence over clothes among fashion-minded youths. "Students are committing these crimes because they don't have a sense of self-esteem," she says.

Only three years ago California was ridiculed by the cartoonists and much of the rest of America when it set up an official "task force on self-esteem", but as usual the trend-setting state is enjoying the last laugh.

The theory that the key to happiness and success consists of feeling good about yourself — mocked in 1987 as the product of mellow-minded West Coast

shrinks — has caught on with a vengeance and has emerged as the dominant doctrine in many American schools, juvenile courts and pop sociology.

However, some critics are challenging the theory as a dangerous encouragement to complacency in a country which already turns out, by many measures, the least educated children in the industrialized world.

Across the country, school boards are ordering teachers to inculcate self-worth as top priority. The Governor of Maryland has created a 26-member panel to promote the doctrine that "drug abuse, teen pregnancy, failure in school and most other social ills can be reduced by making people feel good about themselves", as the *Baltimore Sun* put it.

In New York, another state "task force" recommended in November that schools "nurture self-esteem

and respond to individual needs." This, it held, would help combat the continuous demolition of their self-image that nearly all children are said by the experts to suffer as they progress from nursery school to sixth form.

From Massachusetts to New Mexico, teachers are promoting the power of positive thinking by urging pupils to chant things like "I am a good person, I am kind" and "I am friendly, I am special".

At one typical Long Island school they teach children to resist thinking with a "mud mind" and stay with a "sparkler mind". At St Clement's school in Somerville, near Boston, pupils are taught how to "celebrate their goodness, their gifts and their strengths". Techniques include keeping a journal of good actions and learning to say to others: "Thanks. I affirm you for being a good friend." On the teacher's desk, as in many other

classrooms around the country, there sits a glass jar full of blue liquid, which is meant to symbolize the potential of each pupil.

In recent months, the jargon of the self-esteem school has entered popular culture, in television shows and even commercials. You hear it on the street in New York, often spiced with that other fashionable term "to disrespect" someone.

The man alleged to have started the murderous fire at the Bronx nightclub last month claimed he did it because his girlfriend had "disrespected" him. "Getting disrespected is good for your self-esteem," explained one young man to a New York reporter.

The doctrine has always been ridiculed by conservatives, who see it as a deterrent to learning. Now some experts are citing the fact that the California task force failed, after spending nearly \$1 million, to

produce solid evidence to bear out the theory.

Conversely, a recent poll produced a startling statistic. A mathematics test was given to 13-year-olds in six countries. Koreans came top and the Americans came bottom. The children were also asked if they agreed with the statement: "I am good at mathematics." The Koreans came bottom with 23 per cent agreeing and the Americans came top, with 68 per cent. American "kids feel exceedingly good about doing bad," said a *Time* magazine commentary.

Over the past month, the American Federation of Teachers and the chief of the California school system have both attacked the most radical scheme so far suggested for helping members of racial minorities improve their view of themselves.

The proposal, made by a New

York task force, would require the replacement of the current curriculum with one that placed equal emphasis on the achievements of non-white races.

Thus minority students "will have higher self-esteem and self-respect, while children from European cultures will have a less arrogant perspective".

Mr Albert Shanker, the president of the teacher's federation, denounced the task force, saying its real goal seemed to be to "make sure minority students get told nice stories about themselves".

Mr Bill Honig, the California chief, called the scheme "nothing but racism". It now appears unlikely that the plan will be adopted. Many critics say that, rather than promoting achievement, the self-esteem movement is undermining efforts by central and local government to impose higher standards on US education.

London-Washington links become 'one-way street'

From Peter Stothard
US Editor, Washington

"YOUR usual seats, gentlemen," said Mrs Margaret Thatcher to the American visitors as they entered her Downing Street study. "I hope not to be seeing you again for a very long time," she told them as they left.

If, as once was said, diplomatic history can be told through the "hellos" and "goodbyes", this exchange in January between the Prime Minister and two senior emissaries from President Bush sums up nicely the state of the "special relationship" as the two sides prepare for their Easter summit in Bermuda.

The seats taken by Mr Robert Gates, Deputy National Security Adviser, and Mr Lawrence Eagleburger, Deputy Secretary of State, were their "usual" ones as both men have become familiar fixtures of the transatlantic ferry circuit over the past tumultuous year.

Communications traffic between Whitehall and the White House is probably at a post-war high. Mrs Thatcher spends much more time on the telephone with Mr Bush than she did with her soul mate, Mr Reagan. Meetings, whether in person or through intermediaries, have become more common and less formal.

But the Prime Minister's wryly re-

signed farewell to her guests was symbolic, too. The substance of the messages from Washington have become more surprising and unwelcome than before.

Before the January visit, the President had decided to announce a new round of US troop cuts and base closures. The messengers were bringing advance intelligence, not seeking advice. Although the British could take satisfaction in hearing of the decision before the other Nato partners, they were able to do nothing but make the most marginal corrections to the plan.

The Bermuda meeting is likely to be cordial. It will cover important Japanese trade questions and nuclear proliferation in the Middle East as well as the central issues of Europe. But no one can hide the fact that relations between London and Washington — even if only temporarily — have become a "one-way street".

Mr Bush is still much criticized in his own capital for his diffidence in the face of the new Europe. But, to those who stand at the receiving end of US foreign policy, it hardly seems like that. Both on arms reductions and on the architecture for German reunification the US has led the way — and still leads the way. Mrs Thatcher may have had an early effect on Mr Bush's appreciation of President

Gorbachov. She may, too, have played a part in forcing the principle, if not the practical form, of the international forum which is now known as the "two-plus-four talks".

But her short-term place in the US relationship to Europe is clear. It is Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, and Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his Foreign Minister, who will get virtually any help they need to retain power. If that means intensifying Mrs Thatcher's sense of cautious isolation from Europe, so be it. If Downing Street dreads each moment that Messrs Eagleburger and Gates might return, so be it, too. As for poll-tax revolts and by-election defeats, Mrs Thatcher's future is of more dramatic than strategic interest to Americans.

The longer term (which, in the Bush White House, means anything more than a year) is, as usual, not so clear. Alongside its assertiveness on certain issues, the US is deeply insecure about its future relationship with the nations of Europe. Calm White House statements hide a serious concern about how its influence there is to be maintained. As one official put it, "For every one point drop in our military presence, we need a 10 point rise in other links, maybe even more, to maintain our pull over events. As nuclear is to conventional forces, so

military is to non-military; we're going to need more new connections than any of us have yet come to terms with."

The bureaucrats have their own new buzz word — the "avenue" or, for those who prefer a buzz phrase, the "avenue of access". American fears of closing links and losing access far outweigh older interests. "You British, for example," a middle-ranking official said, "are obsessed by the loss of the special relationship. Why can't you see that the avenue between Washington and London, no matter how wide or special it is, simply could not take the traffic that we want."

As the State Department sees it, the US is engaged in the biggest highway programme in history. It wants new six-lane avenues to Berlin, Bonn, Brussels, Paris, Nato, EC, CSCE, and all turnings to Moscow. It wants flexible plans, which will allow it to build a slip-road here, a bypass there — and change its mind back again.

"What you should be looking at is not who gets building priority but how much building is going on. That is what counts," the official said, using words which sound impatient and are meant to. Washington is growing tired of the regular taunts by British commentators about the sad state of the "relationship". The overwhelming fear is that

disagreements within Europe (petty disagreements, as Americans see them) will deprive the US of the flexibility to build its "avenues". Mr Bush, like his recent predecessors, believes that almost any sort of unity in Europe is better than nothing in this respect.

Mrs Thatcher has had some limited success in persuading the White House of the dangers of this view by showing the prospects of inflexibility and protectionism from a Europe dominated by Brussels. But every small gain has been hard won.

If the atmosphere surrounding the Bermuda talks is better than those at Camp David in November, it is not least because the volume of abuse between London and Brussels has been reduced since the Strasbourg summit. It has also helped that the French, once the White House darlings for their attitude to European integration, have begun to irritate the Administration with what is seen as petty reluctance to be flexible about new roles for Nato, CSCE, EC and the "two-plus-four" talks.

A new book disparaging US power by President Mitterrand's top economic adviser has also been ill-received. "The Kennedys' honeymoon is definitely over," said one US official, referring to the much noted fact that Mitterrand had, unlike Mrs Thatcher,

been invited to the Bush family holiday home. A week after the Bermuda meeting, Mitterrand makes a similar trip — to a hotel in Florida.

Although there has been no shortage of commentators keen to write off the "special relationship" for clarity, Mr Bush is about as personally committed to a close and trusting relationship with Britain as one could hope for.

The core of Britain's transatlantic link can be described as: shared culture, shared secrets, and close links between individuals in government. Mr Bush is the embodiment of all three.

But once this latest round of allied summits is over, the chief problem for anyone dealing with the Bush Administration will still be the same. The avenues of real access into the marble halls of Washington look set to remain so much narrower than those planned to lead outdoors.

If Mrs Thatcher or her successor were to think that Mr James Baker, Secretary of State, was too mechanistic in his approach to Europe, too inclined to see the world through Treasury spectacles, insufficiently aware of the nationalist pressures that can so easily make economics a mockery, she or he would have many fewer weeks than before to insert their ideas into the American decision-making machinery.

Moscow drops its insistence on neutral Germany

From Susan Ellicott, Washington

MOSCOW is no longer demanding that a unified Germany be neutral, the United States said yesterday. But the two sides are still far apart on its status within Nato.

On the third day of talks between Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, and Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Baker appeared to suggest that the Soviet Union would be willing to accept either a weaker Nato than exists today or some kind of Nato association for Germany other than full status. Ideally, Moscow would like both.

"It's fair to say that there was a recognition that perhaps neutrality is not the best route to go," Mr Baker said. "They were quite clear, however, in their desire or their view that a unified Germany as part of Nato presented a problem to them."

Mr Baker said it was made clear to Mr Shevardnadze that the US was "firm in our view that a unified Germany must remain a member of Nato".

It has been clear for some time that the Soviet Union would not win acceptance for its preference that a unified Germany be neutral. But Moscow is expected to continue its attempt to keep Germany outside Nato's unified military command.

President Bush was due to meet Mr Shevardnadze later in the morning, one day after the superpowers announced a date for a summit in the US — May 30 to June 3. The Soviet Foreign Minister carried with him a letter from President Gorbachov for Mr Bush.

Mr Shevardnadze's visit coincides with one of the most

tense periods in US-Soviet relations during Mr Bush's 15 months in office. At a time of rapid rapprochement after the democratic reforms in Eastern Europe, Washington has appeared uncomfortable with Moscow's tough stand against Lithuania's attempts to gain independence.

Now that a summit date is set, the Bush Administration will have to tread carefully towards the Kremlin's crack-down on Lithuanian independence. Congress has been urging a tougher stand.

The talks between Mr Baker and Mr Shevardnadze have concentrated on the Soviet Union's struggling economy, regional conflicts and ironing out differences impeding the signature of accords on limiting long-range nuclear missiles, chemical arms and conventional forces in Europe.

Soviet and US officials indicated on Thursday that the superpowers are unlikely to resolve a sufficient number of obstacles by the summit to permit the two presidents to sign a new arms control agreement as they had hoped. They could, however, sign an agreement in principle.

● MOSCOW: The Latvian Communist Party opened a contentious two-day congress in Riga yesterday that was expected to end with a resolution similar to those adopted in the republic's two Baltic neighbours, Lithuania and Estonia, to seek independence from the Soviet party (Michael Binyon writes).

But the Latvian party is likely to split over the issue, with the majority calling for the retention of some links with Moscow, including

participation in the Soviet party's elected bodies, and the minority, made up mostly of ethnic Latvians, wanting to break all contacts.

Unlike Lithuania and Estonia, Latvia has almost as many ethnic Russians as Latvians. On the eve of the congress a third faction emerged, calling for some midway compromise and giving a warning that ethnic feuding would destroy Marxism in the republic.

Meanwhile, Moscow has stayed silent on the reply sent to President Gorbachov by the Lithuanian Supreme Council, which urged the opening of a dialogue and expressed understanding for the "concern" its declaration of independence caused in Moscow.

The Russians will clearly be encouraged by the conciliatory tone and the implied climbdown by Vilnius, but Moscow is in no mood to make concessions and is likely to continue the pressure on Lithuania until it meets the conditions set for a normal opening of talks.

These include rescinding last month's declaration of independence, which the Supreme Soviet in Moscow has declared null and void.

The international affairs committee of the Soviet Parliament yesterday criticized the resolutions passed on Lithuania by the US House and Senate foreign affairs committees. It said such attempts to influence events would not promote a settlement and would only intensify the confrontation between various groups. Speakers denounced US ultimatums as tactics and an infringement of Soviet sovereignty.

Romania's new-style police force



Miss Cornelia Stefan, a senior grade student at Bucharest's newly-formed police academy at the suburb of Baneasa, applies lipstick before attending a course in foreign languages

Communists retain a few aces

From Richard Bassett, Ljubljana

IF 1989 was the "year of revolutions" in Eastern Europe, 1990 will be remembered as the "year of elections" which gave nations long deprived of democracy their first acquaintance for many years with unrigged ballot boxes.

It is a voyage into the unknown for almost everyone concerned — except the communists. They alone have experience of dealing — or rather subverting — democratic elections. They are, above all, as bitter memories of the 1940s remind us, masters of exploiting coalitions.

Though Moscow's influence may be diminishing in Eastern Europe, the communists still have a few cards left to play in the run-up to these elections. Only in East Germany is Moscow's hand weakening by the day.

Firstly, only Czechoslovakia (elections, June 8), and some would say only the former Czech Crown lands (Bohemia and Moravia), have any tradition of democracy.

Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania and Poland have never

experienced effective modern parliamentary democracy. Hungary (second round of elections tomorrow) was ruled by an "autocratic Regent", Admiral Horthy, before the Second World War.

Bulgaria (elections, June 10) and Romania (elections, May 20) were governed before the communists took over by various able if unfortunate monarchs who, while possessed of considerable charm, did not correspond to British ideals of constitutional monarchs.

In Yugoslavia two gifted men, King Alexander and his successor after his assassination Prince Paul, were forced by ethnic tensions to dissolve parliament and rule by decree.

This month's elections in Slovenia and Croatia have no parallels in Serbia or the southern republics, emphasizing again the dangers posed to stable democracy by nationalism. A Yugoslav Federation ruled democratically in the north and by a monolithic communist machine in the south seems destined to become in a few

years little more than a "geographical expression".

Lack of democratic traditions and the spectre of escalating ethnic tensions may yet serve the communists well as they scramble to hold on to power.

A more powerful weapon in the communist armoury is still the extraordinary forces of inertia which prevail in these countries. Many key positions held by communists in the bureaucracy cannot be rapidly dismantled. More important, former communist party members are still in control of key positions in the media.

It is tempting to think that this can only take place in Balkan countries, such as Romania, but even in Czechoslovakia, where hopes for a transition to Western democracy are highest, all the heads of the state media, including the all-powerful state television service, are former party members.

It is unlikely that these influential posts, critical in the months before an election, will be vacated in favour of non-party people until the

elections are over. But perhaps most worrying of all is the resurgence of nationalism already posing a violent and dramatic backdrop to the machinery of elections.

Without recourse to communist methods of control, increasingly dependent upon public opinion to retain power, and faced with devastated economies, it cannot be discounted that the new democratic politicians emerging across Eastern Europe this spring will not exploit nationalist tensions.

Old rivalries, never forgotten, between Romanians and Hungarians, Czechs and Poles are already resurfacing. An angry Mr Lech Walesa, snubbed Mr Vaclav Havel for visiting Germany before Poland. A petulant Budapest refuses to take part in a summit in Bratislava in protest at alleged mistreatment of a Hungarian minority in Slovakia. Only an optimist would imagine the advent of parliamentary democracy helping any of these problems.

Leading article, page 11

Slovenes set to cast off Serbian reins

From Our Special Correspondent, Ljubljana

the so-called *Demos* (democratic opposition), are convinced Slovenia cannot work any longer with Serbia.

Both Slovenia and Croatia have a history of loyalty to the

Habsburg Empire and Central European values.

In both republics, despite years of religious repression, sometimes violent, Roman Catholicism has remained the



principal religious faith. This places them at odds with the predominantly Orthodox Serbs, whose history is one of centuries of unrelieved Turkish repression.

Both northern republics have regarded Serbia for many years as little more than a "Turkish outpost".

"We once belonged to Austria; they, the Serbs, were — and still are — Turkish," says Professor Edo Ravnikar, Slovenia's leading architect.

Serbian nationalism, in particular the abuse of Albanian human rights in the southern province of Kosovo, has only confirmed this in Ljubljana's eyes.

"The separation of the Slovenes from the rest of Yugoslavia would be easy," says Mr Ljilje Petric, leader of the opposition Christian Democratic Party, also part of *Demos*.

Soviet academia starts to debunk Lenin

From Michael Binyon
Moscow

THE most important attempt by Soviet academics to debunk the myths surrounding Lenin ended yesterday with the close of a four-day conference attended by Western authorities on the Russian revolution.

The Soviet Academy of Sciences had invited 60 historians from Britain, the US, France and West Germany, including many fierce critics of Lenin and Communist ideology, for an unprecedented round-table seminar at which criticism of the founder of the Soviet state flowed freely.

The conference, two weeks before the 120th anniversary of Lenin's birth, is symptomatic of the Soviet Union's painful reassessment of its ideology and Communist past. Until recently, Lenin was a sacrosanct figure.

In the past few days, *Pravda*, the newspaper Lenin founded, has published a frank assessment of his role, including some contentious remarks on the treatment of the opponents of the revolution.

Western historians taking part included Professors Robert Tucker of Princeton University, Alexander Etkinovich of Indiana, Paul Dukes of Aberdeen and John Kees, until recently Professor at Toronto University. Leading critics of Communism, such as Mr Robert Conquest, author of books on Stalin's purges, and Professor Adam Ulam from Harvard were invited but did not attend.

According to some Western participants, the Soviet side was eager to consider the controversies surrounding Lenin, but most Soviet historians did not accept a full-scale reassessment of his role. Indeed Dr Ury Afanaseyev, rector of the Soviet Historical Archives Institute and a leading liberal historian, accused his countrymen of being ideologically blinkered and failing to put aside political prejudices.

The Soviet participants even discussed the dissident movement of the 1960s and 1970s.

Not all the Western visitors were ready to debunk Lenin. Dr Tucker said Lenin was both a revolutionary and a reformer, with his second role more evident once he was in power. As a reformer, he was more influenced by Robert Owen, the founder of the co-operative movement, than by Marx. "If he were living now, I would like to think he would be representative of the new thinking and realise that a market approach to economics was unavoidable."

Already a more critical attitude to Lenin is apparent in daily Soviet life. The Arbat, the main pedestrian street in Moscow, is full of biting cartoons of Soviet leaders, including Lenin. Nearly all the posters of Lenin striding purposefully towards a Communist dawn have been removed from its buildings.

Newspapers have published letters criticizing the iconization of Lenin and there are rumours that some of his statues will be removed.

The moves to tear away the veil of myth appear to have been authorized by President Gorbachov himself. In February, Mr Vadim Medvedev, the party's chief ideologist, said that for over half a century a whole body of Leninist dogma had been inculcated as the only acceptable view. "The party faces a dual task — to rid Leninism of dogma and all possible falsifications, and to develop its potential as a living, changing reality."



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Japan denies selling out to US over trade accord

From Susan Elliott, Washington

JAPAN'S Prime Minister, Mr. Toshiki Kaifu, fended off criticism in Tokyo yesterday that his country has sold out to the United States by agreeing to sweeping new measures designed to open its markets to foreign firms.

Americans have hailed the agreement as a crucial step towards smoothing the increasingly tense relations between the two countries, the world's leading economic powers, over the \$50 billion (£30.5 billion) annual US trade deficit with Japan.

After four days of intense talks in Washington, a Japanese delegation on Thursday agreed to measures to relax restrictions on establishing overseas retail shops in Japan, to increase public spending and to act against collusion by Japanese companies to protect domestic business.

Washington has been pressing Japan since last summer to open its economy to foreign business and investment, arguing that Japan benefits from its access to markets around the world but has not granted trading competitors equivalent advantages.

Hardly lifting his eyes from a prepared script, Mr. Kaifu said in Tokyo that the accord "will be in our national interest", but would involve changes in Japanese business methods that "will possibly be painful".

Like Japanese officials in Washington, he seemed anxious to show that Japan had conceded more than the US, and emphasized that the terms of the accord were not a "compromise" but in line with Japanese "proposals".

The US agreed to allow

Japan to buy crude oil and liquefied natural gas from Alaska, and reaffirmed promises by the Bush Administration to improve America's national savings rate, educational standards and federal deficit, which Japan for some time has blamed for the trade imbalance between the two countries.

News of the accord boosted both the Japanese yen and stock prices in Tokyo, providing a welcome lift after the recent sharp drops.

US comment approached the agreement from a different angle. Mrs. Carla Hills, the US Trade Representative, praising Mr. Kaifu's Government for "courage and leadership".

At the same time some members of the US Congress wondered whether Japan had promised enough changes in its traditionally clunky business practices.

Sceptics say the accord will mark a new era in US-Japan relations only if Tokyo lives up to its pledge to relax restrictions. Congress has taken a tough position against Japan, threatening to impose mandatory sanctions on some Japanese imports unless Japan makes it easier for American firms to operate in Japan.

America emphasized that it was unlikely to see immediate benefits in its trade balance with Japan, but trade experts said the concessions should ensure that Japan will not this year be included on Washington's list of unfair trading nations.



Miss Maria Damaski, regarded as a rising star in the Greek Communist Party, addressing a left-wing mass rally in Athens during the campaign

Greens could hold the key to Greek election

From Philip Jacobson, Athens

AS MORE than six million Greeks prepare wearily for their third attempt in less than a year to elect an effective government, the signs are that a few thousand votes in the right constituencies are going to be crucial to Sunday's result.

Since the Greens appear to be the only party gaining ground, there is an intriguing possibility that the balance of parliamentary power could reside with a quirky federation of some 100 special interest factions ranging from opponents of nuclear energy plants and conventional ecologists to the bicycle power lobby and the country's most celebrated transvestite.

This gentleman is called Paola, an Athenian publisher and long-time activist for gay rights in one of Europe's more aggressively heterosexual societies. Paola is number one on the list of candidates for Kraximo and he has let it be known that, if elected, he will take his place in Parliament in women's clothing.

To judge by the Greens' showing in recent opinion polls, that is not a prospect to horrify those who have finally had enough of the old-style politics of corruption and patronage.

If they cannot quite vote the Kraximo ticket, there is always the Society of Lovers of

the Bicycle, whose platform includes the provision of special traffic lanes on the capital's chaotic main roads.

Passing lightly over the Association of Pavlov's Dogs (anti-vivisection) and a group reportedly dedicated to furthering the cause of nudism — one suspects this may be a spoof — it becomes clear that the base support for Greece's Greens, who campaign under the clumsy banner of Ecologists-Alternatives, lies in the environmental lobby.

Not before time, more and more Greeks are becoming alarmed at the state of their traffic-clogged towns and filthy air. It is no coincidence that a Green who (somewhat to her own surprise perhaps) won the movement's parliamentary seat last November, Mrs. Marina Dyzl, comes from Athens, home of the infamous smog, the nefas that smothers the capital on hot, still days.

When Parliament recently became bogged down in partisan squabbles about the election of a new Greek President, Mrs. Dyzl summed up the exasperation of many citizens by brandishing a bright pink sign declaring "Enough of this theatre".

That might not amount to a constructive policy — the Ecologist-Alternative party is not too strong on policies —

but it would have touched the right nerve among the first-time voters and women who appear to be its keenest supporters.

The polls also suggest that defectors from the far left are drifting into the Green camp to register their protest at the readiness of the Communist-led Alliance of the Left to fall into the arms of either main party at the first hint of a place in government.

The disarray in the Communist camp, from which, most observers consider, must come the votes required for a clear-cut victory by the Socialists of Pasok or the conservative New Democracy party, reflects its lack of any real response to the dramas sweeping Eastern Europe. The party's veteran leader, Mr. Harilaos Florakis — a septuagenarian like his rivals — certainly seems to have squandered any chance of luring disgruntled Socialist voters away: something that must have struck him as perfectly possible with Mr. Andreas Papandreou mired in scandal only nine months ago.

There is obvious appeal in a clean, visibly independent faction which Greece's convoluted electoral arithmetic could lift into a pivotal position if, as seems likely, Sunday leaves the country deadlocked once again.

Novelist's hopes fading in Peru

From Corinne Schmidt, Lima

FEW countries approach their general elections in such a critical state as Peru, which will elect a new President and Congress tomorrow.

Two months ago most thought that the man to save them was the novelist who gave up books to run for President, Señor Mario Vargas Llosa, a centre-right liberal. Tomorrow, when 10 million Peruvians will cast their votes, he may poll less than 40 per cent. He will almost certainly be forced to face a run-off election with his nearest competitor.

The novelist's toughest foe has not turned out to be Señor Henry Pease, the priest-like leftist. Nor has Señor Alfonso Barrantes, the ex-Stalinist turned moderate socialist, won more than lukewarm affection with his carefully cultivated image of the humble provincial *mestizo*. Señor Luis Alva Castro has a strong party base, but suffers from the catastrophic performance of the nation's current President and from his own utter lack of charisma.

The man giving Señor Vargas Llosa his most serious competition is an academic most Peruvians had never heard of three months ago.

Señor Alberto Fujimori, the former Rector of the National Agrarian University, has quite literally come out of nowhere to become a strong contender for second place in tomorrow's election. The Peruvian

of Japanese descent sold his house and a tractor to finance his candidature. He has run a spartan campaign with a basic message of honesty and hard work and has made almost no promises. In recent weeks, he and his "Change 90" movement have risen one point a day in the polls.

Pollsters say Señor Vargas Llosa has "wide but shallow" support. His closing campaign rally in Lima on Wednesday night was filled with well-dressed, well-heeled supporters.

The other rallies were notable for their shabbily dressed hordes. Señor Glen Ore, a metallurgical engineer from Huancayo who drives a taxi because he cannot find work in his field, was not surprised. "Look, if you are not white in this country, you do not have the same chances. And he represents their (upper class) interests, not mine."

The Congressional candidate likely to draw the most votes is Señor Fernando Olivera, a lively independent whose only campaign promise is that he will sweep away corruption.

Señor Vargas Llosa has run a multi-million-dollar campaign, allied himself with parties that have governed the country badly in the past, and traded bitter insults with his rivals. Few Peruvians today think of him as the respected, independent novelist of just two years ago.

Mujahidin kill general

Herat — Several people, including an Afghan general, were killed and others wounded when Mujahidin rebels pretending to surrender opened fire at a ceremony 25 miles from here. Mr. Fazle Haq Khaliq Yar, the provincial governor, was the first to be shot as he addressed the rebels. (AFP)

Suspect dies

Mogadishu — Mr. Yusuf Gubad, arrested two weeks ago on suspicion of murdering a British employee of the World Bank in Somalia, has died of injuries inflicted by his gangster friends, police said. No injuries were mentioned at the time of his arrest. (AFP)

Rich man held

Hanoi — Mr. Huynh Bin Hot, who said he was Vietnam's richest man, has been arrested and will be charged with smuggling and with corruption. (AFP)

Floor recovered

Amman — Police have arrested three people and recovered an early Islamic mosaic floor stolen from a desert castle in Jordan. (Reuters)

Gas flow begins

Nicosia — Iranian exports of natural gas to the Soviet Union are to start on Monday. (Reuters)

Quebec setback

Ottawa — A plan to end Quebec Province's constitutional isolation from the rest of Canada had a setback when the Newfoundland legislature voted to rescind its earlier ratification of the plan.

Beirut fighting

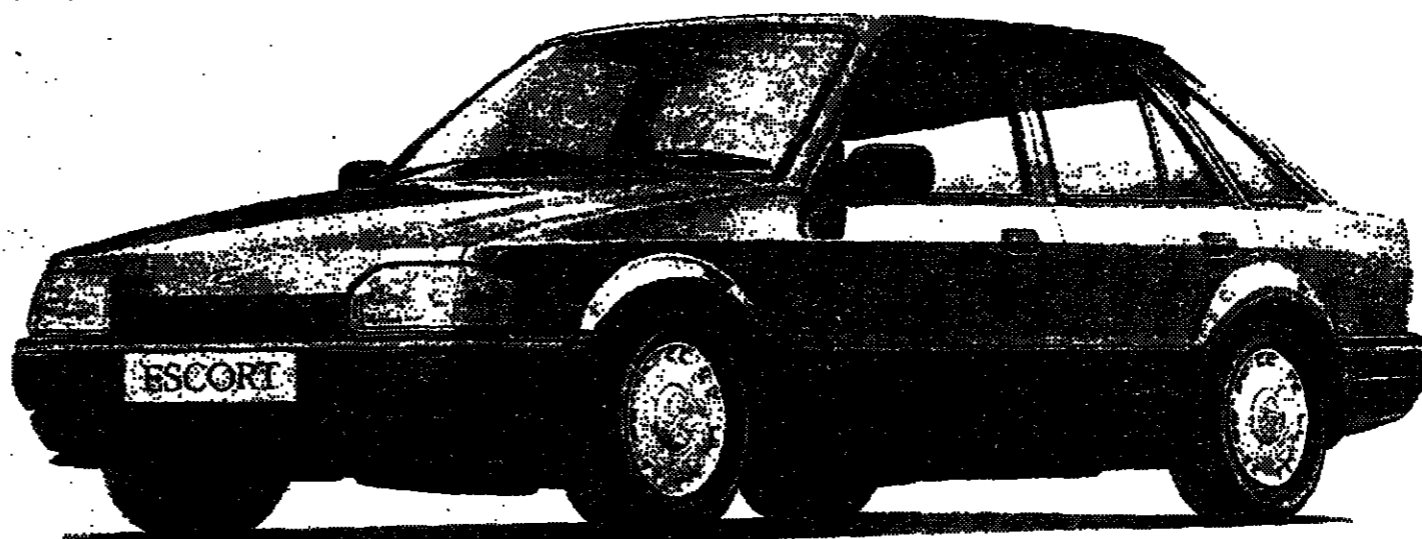
West Beirut — As a countdown for a final showdown seemed to have started in the Christian Lebanese sector, fighting between rival Christian forces resumed in and around east Beirut.

Leader goes

Sydney — Mr. Charles Blum, the leader of Australia's embattled National Party, has announced his resignation, the third party leader to fall victim to the recent election.

Hit the jackpot

Madrid — An unidentified Spaniard from Galicia hit the jackpot by winning a record \$5.6 million in the state lottery. (Reuters)



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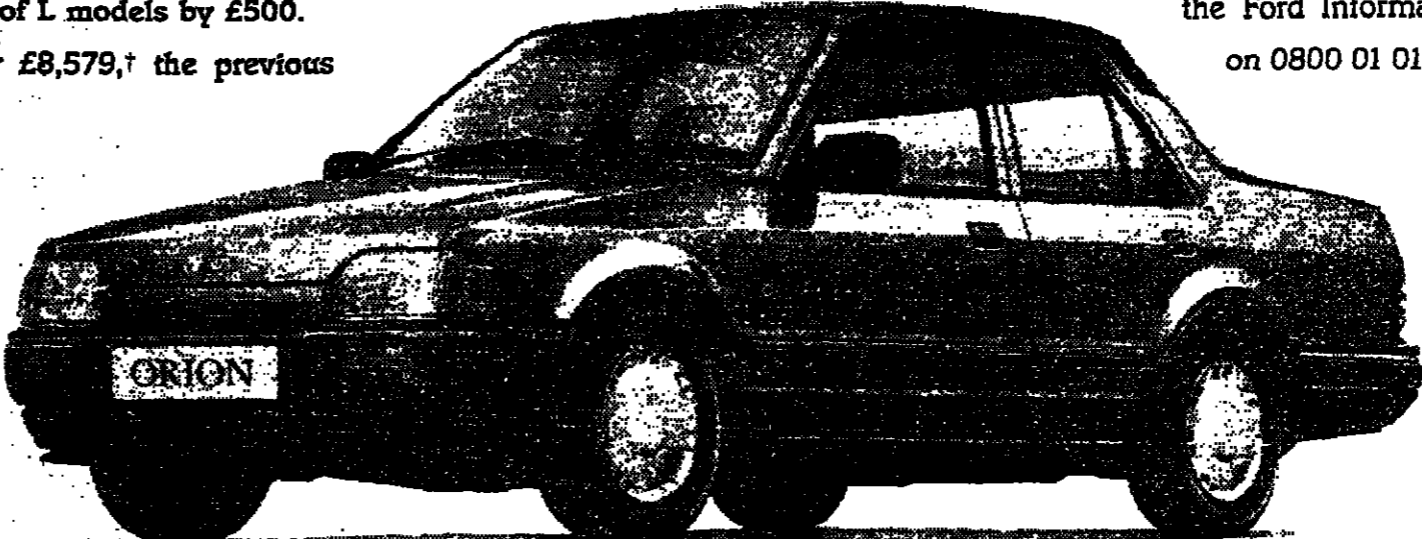
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TIMES DIARY SIMON BARNES

Bridgetown, Barbados

Ugliness is all around me. As I write from the Kensington Oval press box between overs during the fourth Test, I see on all sides a repellent breed of contempt. These Englishmen abroad are a far cry from the gentlemen followers of Test teams in the past. They are clad in shorts of low comedy and shirts (when a shirt is worn at all) carrying some such slogan as "Save water, drink beer", which they do in vast quantities. So much indeed, that Banks Brewery is in danger of running dry.

The Brits have been arriving here in unprecedented numbers. Hotels are booked solid; you cannot hire a mini-moke, the standard tourist transport. Union Jacks surround the ground, many bearing the name of a football club. And as they drink away, and talk away, with their "Goochie" and their "Lambie" that, the vibes I get are bad. May they confine the violence of which they seem so capable to the aesthetics of the occasion.

Readers of elephantine memory will recall a sprightly correspondence in this column about the sighting of rare birds on cricket pitches. One high spot of the week was the visit of an osprey to the Oval during the one-day game on Tuesday.

Although cricket is king, Barbados is abuzz with its first season of Davis Cup tennis, in which it has already despatched Bolivia and the Bahamas. What is the secret of this new excellence? The answer is plenty of practice against a 13-year-old American girl, Jennifer Capriati. She is the latest sensation on the women's circuit and employs the leading Bajan player, Richard Ashby, normally resident in Florida, as a hitting partner. I'm told that anyone who can take a few points off Jennifer has got to be good.

At this time of year, wherever you go in the world, the Grand National casts its spell. My racing snout advises the adventurous to disregard those unprepossessing black blinkers and the statistics stacked against him and back Ghofar to become the first seven-year-old winner since Bogart in 1940. His each-way choice: Uncle Merlin, from America.

The bizarre rumblings about the sale of Canova's "The Three Graces" have reached my ears even here. However, even if the statue does go to America, Britain will still possess another version of The Three Graces, which I reproduce. The



Graces—yes, the three cricketing brothers—are, I learn from the forthcoming *Wisden Book of Cricket Memorabilia*, the work of Howard Carter, stand 35 inches high in painted wood, and are part of an *oeuvre* notable for its vicarious nostalgia. And Carter's work is a bargain compared to Canova's: it sold recently for a mere £5,000.

Once again, this column turns to bookkeepers, and an old friend, Roberto Rojas of Chile. As you will recall, he was banned for life after causing a match against Brazil to be called off, claiming he had been injured when struck on the head by a firework. Rojas's wife has written to João Havelange, president of Fifa, seeking a pardon, pointing out that they are both good Catholics. Havelange's reply was a masterpiece of self-righteousness, surely something he was warned about in the catechism. "I responded I was Catholic too, but I try not to sin so I won't have to ask for pardon." It strikes me that Señor Havelange errs in his theology. Besides, this is the column that believes in forgiveness for erring goals.

Throughout the Caribbean, the talk is of the Harrogate and District League, and that body's cup final, which pitted Boroughbridge against Aberford Albion. Albion won a bruising game 2-0, and the medal ceremony followed. Or rather it didn't. Instead, there was a major punch-up involving 50 people, mostly Boroughbridge supporters and Albion players. The trophy table was overturned and the medals were scattered all over the place. This is the sort of thing that happens when you get big crowds: the fixture attracted a passionate 400. The presentation was cancelled in despair, an inquiry is to be held, and all concerned have been instructed to say nothing to anybody.

The world, I think, is divided into rebels and sneaks. Most of us are sneaks. In spirit we are rebels, but when it comes to the crunch we end up doing the sneaky thing. My grandfather recognized the trait. He used to tease my grandmother for her timidity about swimming. When there was a sunny day abroad and a beach nearby, Nana would cry "Hooray! let's go swimming!" Then she would don a remarkable bathing costume and advance fearfully towards the sea. By now the rest of us, urged on by her example, would be in and swimming. But Nana never quite did. She would get to the shallow part, still calling "Hooray!" and advance no further. "Mentally," said Grandad, who had a dry wit and a modern turn of phrase, "Alice is a swimmer. But physically she has never quite made it."

The Conservative Party is in a state of worry and turmoil after a black few weeks in which Labour has gone 24 points ahead and Mrs Thatcher's popularity has sunk to a new low. But Tories should not overdo the jitters. Macaulay famously wrote, in his essay on Byron: "We know no spectacle so ridiculous as the British public in one of its periodical fits of morality." Substitute "The Conservative Party in one of its periodical fits of panic", and you have the appropriate words for the current situation.

The intrigues who chatter or whisper about ousting the Prime Minister should take a glance at the history of their party. Of course history is not an infallible guide — historical precedents are often broken — yet the past throws at least some light on the present, and a person who takes no account of it is a fool.

Conservatives have often jettisoned their leaders, but almost always when in opposition, not in office. Until 1975, this was never the result of a party vote. There was a great press campaign against Balfour after 1910 when he had lost three successive general elections. The slogan coined by a high-Tory editor was BMO: "Balfour Must Go". And Balfour did just that.

Whether or not the age of ideologies has ended, in the last decade of the 20th century, the man of destiny will surely return. The great man, as an explanatory tool, has been out of fashion ever since the defeat of Nazism and fascism and then the subsequent discrediting of the cult of personality within the communist world.

The ready resort to notions of historical greatness, which had characterized civilized discourse in the last century, abruptly ceased to be respectable in learned circles. Biography became separated from history proper, and its practitioners for the most part detached themselves from the academic world. Dr Johnson's old dictum that biography is the most profitable branch of history was forgotten or disregarded.

Instead, sociology and economics imposed a kind of greenhouse effect upon the mental environment. Once the heroic interpretation of history was dethroned, derivatives of Marxism — drained of all the eschatological drama of the original — gradually stifled the older humility which had respected the unpredictability of historical events.

The primacy of socio-economic categories in explaining historical phenomena was taken virtually for granted by many historians and thinkers who were emphatically not Marxists. The last half-century may come to be seen as a distinct period of historiography: one characterized by demotion of the individual from historical agent to passive subject.

Great men became steadily rarer on the political stage. Only in the developing world was the charismatic personality still more than a *quantité négligable*. In Europe, only a handful of figures whose mythical status derived from the intense experience of victory and defeat still held the stage in the 1960s: Churchill, Adenauer, de Gaulle. By the 1970s, the last survivors of the last heroic age — Franco, Tito, Mao — reached senility.

It was a period in which politicians had few pretensions to greatness. Academics were still unable to predict events in any detail; but since little changed in the structures of power, this mattered less than it had during the less stable epoch between the wars. Mrs Thatcher probably deserves the accolade of greatness as much as many of her predecessors, but the mental climate has been adverse to any such acknowledgement. John Paul II, who in any other age would have been revered as a very great pope, has been treated with suspicion by Western intellectuals.

Now the picture has changed again. Over the last decade, several personalities have emerged in Eastern Europe who seem to possess that titanic quality which the Swiss historian Jacob Burckhardt defined as *historische Grösse*. Gorbachev, Walesa, Havel.

Western figures, too — though previously at a disadvantage — now have the opportunity to acquire the elusive nimbus. Kohl and Mitterrand, though both machine politicians who rose conventionally within an existing system, now have the chance to compete with Adenauer and de Gaulle. Bush, whose lack of individuality now seems in such stark contrast to Kennedy, Nixon or even Reagan, might yet make a name for himself greater than any president's since Franklin Roosevelt.

Will our historians, too, need to change tack? Certainly the authors of the theory of great men a century and more ago were clear in their minds that there was a connection between revolution and heroism.

Thomas Carlyle, whose *Heroes and Hero-Worship* was the theory's most influential single manifesto, had no doubt that he

was living in a volcanic epoch which consequently demanded the qualities of the hero. In his inaugural address at Edinburgh of 1866, given even before Bismarck had completed his revision of the map of Europe, Carlyle said: "We have got into the age of revolutions. All kinds of things are coming to be subjected to fire, as it were: hotter and hotter blows the element round everything. Curious to see how, in Oxford and other places, the used to seem as lying at anchor in the stream of time, regardless of all changes, they are getting into the highest humour of mutation, and all sorts of new ideas are afloat."

Robert Blake offers little historical comfort to disaffected Tories

Can Thatcher be ousted?

he would go. He had had enough. He lacked the energy and will-power to respond, and he resigned voluntarily, though he subsequently had a long and successful career in lesser offices. Stanley Baldwin was repeatedly attacked, in 1923-24 and in 1929-31, after losing elections which resulted in hung parliaments with Labour precariously in office. In March 1931 he nearly resigned, and the editor of *The Times*, Geoffrey Dawson (who was a close friend), had ready an article headed "Mr Baldwin Withdraws". At the last moment Baldwin decided to hold on and hit back. His opponents, the great press barons Rothermere and Beaverbrook, overplayed their hands. Baldwin survived to become and then to become the first prime minister of the National Coalition of 1931-37.

In 1965, Sir Alec Douglas-Home (as he then was) decided to resign after very narrowly losing the election of the previous year. There was a fair

amount of internal party criticism, but it does not seem to have been on the scale of that which Baldwin survived or that which made Balfour retire. Meanwhile Sir Alec had bequeathed to the party an important innovation: a formal leadership election system. It is a quirk of history that this had not been created long before. By chance the changes in the Conservative leadership through retirement or illness had nearly always occurred when the party was in office. So it had been content to accept "the normal processes of consultation" by the Crown as the means of appointing the new prime minister, who was then automatically elected leader at a party meeting.

The only exception was Bonar Law, who in 1911 was elected leader of the party in the Commons, which at that time did not necessarily mean the leadership of the party as a whole. In the event, the election was a walkover, for both his rivals withdrew.

The Douglas-Home procedure was used to elect Edward Heath in preference to Reginald Maudling in 1965, and under a modified form of it, Mrs Thatcher defeated Heath 10 years later. In neither case were the Conservatives in office. It was also under this procedure that Sir Anthony Meyer made his challenge to the Prime Minister last year. No doubt a similar challenge could be made again, but it is difficult to believe that the challenger would have much chance of success.

Very seldom in British history has a sitting prime minister of any party been ousted by an internal party vote. In modern times, nearly all prime ministers have either retired voluntarily or fallen at a general election. It is sometimes said that after Suez the Tories would have forced Anthony Eden to resign had he not done so because of ill health, but I have never seen convincing evidence of this. Prime ministers with large parliamentary majorities are almost irremovable,

unless they remove themselves. Two exceptions might be cited. Peel in 1846 was certainly ousted by a party revolt, but a major issue of policy was involved, not just a general feeling of unease over unpopular measures. By repealing the Corn Laws he was killing a Tory sacred cow. He split the party wide open and was supported by only a minority. The other exception was Neville Chamberlain, who suffered massive defections, though not enough for defeat, on a vote of confidence in the House of Commons in May 1940. He could not dissolve in wartime, but decided on resignation in order to make possible a coalition government.

Mrs Thatcher is not likely to suffer the defeat incurred by Peel or the parliamentary loss of confidence which obliged Chamberlain to retire. She has not split the party ideologically like Peel or temperamentally like Chamberlain. In terms of party leadership, she is well placed to defy all challengers.

Lord Salisbury easily outmanoeuvred Randolph Churchill in 1886. Joseph Chamberlain did not even attempt to push out Balfour in 1905, though he was just as deep in trouble with the party as he was six years later. The difference was that he was prime minister.

It will be surprising if any serious potential successor puts his name down as an opponent of Mrs Thatcher in a party election in the autumn. That is not how Conservatives order these things. The best course for the aspirants is to do nothing and leave it to the Prime Minister to decide whether and when to bow out. An attempt to overthrow her would do the party far more harm than any which she can do by remaining, even on the most critical assessment. When Disraeli overthrew Peel, he doomed his party to 28 years of impotence.

Of course there are plenty of contenders for the post. This has been so throughout its history. There is nothing disreputable about such ambition as long as those concerned are content to wait upon time and event. Loyalty, or at least its appearance, still matters — as Mr Heseltine clearly appreciates. Lord Blake is the author of *The Conservative Party from Peel to Thatcher* (1985).

Clifford Longley finds inconsistency in the new mixed-marriage ruling

Catholics in confusion

No-popery, it has been said, is the residual religion of the English, suggesting that the worst fate that can befall a residually religious Englishman is to want to marry a Roman Catholic. For his children, it is well known, would have to be brought up Catholics too. And Catholicism is an earnest sort of religion which has the temerity, in secular English eyes, to believe itself to be true.

In Northern Ireland, many well-meant English solutions to the communal rivalries — non-sectarian schooling, say, or more inter-marriage (which mixed schools would undoubtedly lead to) — founder on this sharp rock. It is true that one of the ways in which different communities have commonly learnt in the past to get on with one another has been the practice of exogamy, which, as differences dissolve in the intimacy of kitchen and bedroom, gradually becomes indistinguishable from endogamy. But not when religion is the dividing line and one of the religions is Roman Catholicism, for rather than coalescing, it tends to absorb other tribes into itself.

Many a non-Catholic married to a Catholic will know what this feels like, at least once they have children. Even in "Protestant" England there must be at least a million such families.

The Roman Catholic Church seeks to control the religion of the children of such mixed marriages by requiring from the Catholic partner, as a condition of the marriage being allowed, that a formal promise be made. The other partner is no longer required to agree to it, nor, in England at least, does it have to be in writing. Nevertheless it is a formal and formidable commitment, and the other partner has to know about it.

From the end of this month, for Catholics in England and Wales, the key passage in the promise will have a slightly different form: "I sincerely undertake that I will do all that I can within the unity of our partnership to have all the children of our marriage baptised and brought up in the Catholic Church." The words "within the unity of our partnership" are new, and represent a response to the complaint that without such a qualification, the promise could wreck the marriage itself. The security of the marriage, clearly, is even more important than passing on the Catholic faith to the children, which is therefore no longer insisted upon as the absolute priority.

All official Catholic documents, particularly those based on Canon Law, require considerable deciphering, and this new Directory on mixed marriages is a classic of the type. As well as the regulations, it contains a long commentary which makes decoding it only slightly less of an adventure. This states, for in-

stance, that the obligation on a Catholic to have his children raised in the same faith is *A Divinis* — a matter of Divine Law, not a man-made rule of the church which could be altered: "individual Catholics must recognize a God-given obligation to do all that is possible to preserve their own faith and to pass on that faith to their children."

Nevertheless it is said that non-Catholic partners "will certainly recognize for themselves an obligation to do all that they can to pass on to their children their own deeply held religious convictions." What this seems to be trying to say is important, for it is probably the first time an official Catholic document has been so generally sympathetic towards the rights of the other party. On the other hand, it does not say that the Catholic Church or the Catholic partner ought to "recognize" that obligation. "Recognize for themselves" is an odd and empty phrase.

In this context, recognition of the obligation by the Catholic Church is the only recognition that means anything. But for the Catholic Church to say it recognized the obligations of the other partner would be for it to accept a symmetry of moral obligations of equal and opposite force, which, by cancelling each other out, would leave the couple free to do whatever they agreed. Nor would it help (even if it made sense) to recognize the other obligation yet this of it as somehow less binding. When a card is going to be beaten by an ace, it makes no difference whether it is a king or a two. A lesser obligation is, in this context, no obligation at all.

For all its quiet reasonableness, the Directory is unconvincing in its argument at this point: the faith is a "precious gift"; a good parent would therefore want to pass it on; the Catholic Church believes it is not just one church among many, and others cannot expect Catholics to deny their deepest beliefs. All this is unexceptionable, and indeed will impress many non-Catholics as evidence of a church confident of itself, but non-Catholics could just as well say the same about their own faith, or even lack of one.

Now that the promise has been made subject to the overriding qualification "within the unity of our partnership", the door has been opened for the introduction of another overriding qualification, for which there is already good authority in Catholic doctrine: the duty of everyone, Catholic or not, to obey his own conscience. The curious phrase "recognize for themselves" seems to imply that non-Catholics should not expect the Catholic Church or their Catholic partners to recognize that they have such an obligation. That is contrary to Catholic doctrine on the rights of conscience. And that too is held to be *A Divinis*.



Daniel Johnson believes this new age of revolutions must surely produce leaders of heroic stature

torische Grösse. Gorbachev, Walesa, Havel.

Western figures, too — though previously at a disadvantage — now have the opportunity to acquire the elusive nimbus. Kohl and Mitterrand, though both machine politicians who rose conventionally within an existing system, now have the chance to compete with Adenauer and de Gaulle. Bush, whose lack of individuality now seems in such stark contrast to Kennedy, Nixon or even Reagan, might yet make a name for himself greater than any president's since Franklin Roosevelt.

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Perhaps Oxford and the other universities which have tended to discount the influence of leadership on political change will find that today's "heat of mutation" causes them to discard some of the socio-economic baggage that signally failed to predict the present crisis. But it

would be a mistake — of the sub-Marxist variety — to postulate any necessary link between the present European revolutions and a renaissance of methodological individualism.

In the aftermath of what he called the "world crisis" of 1914-18, that shrewd French historiographer Elie Halévy "looked for the 'causes' or 'responsibilities' of the War, not in the acts of individual statesmen, but in collective anonymous forces, against which individual statesmen were powerless." But he did not mean to imply "the bankruptcy of statesmanship". His point was, rather, "to shift the responsibility for the evils under which mankind laboured, from the statesmen to us, the common people, ourselves. The wisdom or folly of our statesmen is merely the reflection of our own wisdom or folly."

That is a salutary reminder in an age when democracy is spreading to regions which have scarcely ever tasted it before. Nelson Mandela, for example, is the object of a hero-cult, but he is also the prisoner of his constituency. Outside prison, heroism is not easily practised, particularly if it involves telling one's supporters unwelcome truths.

The dangers inherent in the attribution of exaggerated powers to the great man have become unfamiliar since we have observed in the 1930s what happened to the hypertrophy of hero-worship. The Dutch medievalist Johan Huizinga wrote in 1936 that "the exaltation of the heroic is itself a crisis phenomenon. It shows that the ideas of service, task and fulfilment of duty no longer exercise the necessary motive power on the public at large. They have to be amplified as through a loudspeaker."

Huizinga went on to identify the sinister consequence of preaching violence from the pulpit of authority: "As exponents of the heroic task the political tide will only too easily wash up those elements who find in the perpetration of violence the gratification of their animal or pathological instincts."

He had in mind the Nazis, of course; but his criticisms are still valid today when applied to the popular liberation movements of Eastern Europe and the developing world. Ceausescu's fall may temporarily have eclipsed the tradition of hero-worship in Europe; but in Cuba the oligarchy of the blindly obedient still maintains Castro in absolute power.

And what of Russia? Gorbachev is magnifying his own authority as that of the Party diminishes towards a vanishing point no longer far distant. Who are the people on his coat-tails? And how will he control them?

As Huizinga wrote: "A rigidly disciplined military authority may perhaps keep them within certain bounds. In the fanaticism of a popular movement, however, they will become the henchmen of murder."

for blacking out one of the Queen Mother's teeth in one of my school textbooks.

"But sir," I protested to the fearsome Mr Moffat, "I didn't draw anything rude. It was just a small ink-blot. How can an ink-blot be rude?"

My friend David drew horns on a photograph of the Pope and wrote a rude word underneath. David was a true rebel, not a sneak. David was named. I was not, and I learned from the comparison. Now, in the privacy of my home, I twiddle the colour control knob and make Mrs Thatcher go green and purple. Riding on the London Underground, pondering the humour of

the sneak, I chanced to see a clever poster advertising the Eagle Star Insurance Company. On a whole sheet of close-typed jargon starting "All parties of the first part shall be known in this poster as Eagle Star..." most of the words are neatly struck through, leaving just a handful — one on each line, interspersed among the others — which are effectively highlighted by not being deleted. They read: "All Eagle Star pension ideas are written in plain English."

I chuckled. It was late. I was alone in the carriage. I had a flip-top pen. An official notice by the door read "Obstructing the doors causes delay and can be dangerous." Or, after a little penmanship, "Obstruct the doors cause delay and be dangerous." Yes, I know it isn't original. Anyway, m'lud, I blame it on Eagle Star.

Mind you, I haven't said a word



MATTHEW PARRIS

to my... tiddly-om-pom-pom." The audience, meanwhile, has not said a word either. We have only guessed it, and we are laughing because we know the others have guessed it too. In

short, the outrageous has been indicated beyond all doubt, but there is no author, therefore no culprit, and therefore no crime. Some cockney rhyming-slang ("berk" — Berkeley Hunt is an example) relies on the same technique. Nobody, nobody at all, actually said it. Modesty forbids... It is the humour not of the rebel, but of the gentle sneak.

I love it. As a child I used to plot with classmates to ask Mrs MacLeod what was the highest navigable lake in the world, so that we could giggle when she said Titicaca. Once we persuaded her to repeat "iced-ink" over and over again, very fast until she realized. Later I was disciplined

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

April 6: The President of the Republic of India and Shrimati Venkatarman, with the Indian Suite in attendance, left Buckingham Palace this morning upon the conclusion of their State Visit to The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh.

His Excellency General D. S. Attygalle was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Commission as High Commissioner for the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in London. School, Hanley Road, Ipswich and visited Sudbury Upper School.

His Excellency Señor Licenciado Francisco d'Escoto and Señora de d'Escoto were received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from Nicaragua to the Court of St James's.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended a concert to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain in aid of the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund at the Royal Festival Hall, London SE1.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were received by the Lord Catto (Chairman, Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund) and Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Harding (Chief of the Air Staff). The Lady Farnham, the Right Hon Sir William Heseltine, Rear-Admiral David Allen and Wing Commander David Walker, RAF, were in attendance.

By command of The Queen, the Lord Somerleyton (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London this afternoon.

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Reginald Alexander, an International Olympic Committee member, successful businessman and Kenyan politician, died aged 75 in Nairobi on April 1.

He was the last surviving white member of the International Olympic Committee from Africa, and he was therefore a figure of some controversy in the Olympic movement during a period of intense anti-apartheid activity.

Throughout his 30 years of membership of the IOC, Alexander had been a staunch supporter of what he regarded as the traditional amateur principles of the Olympic Games, not to say Africa itself. Yet in a changing world, in many senses, he found himself increasingly isolated.

Born in Nairobi, Alexander regarded himself as much an African as any other Kenyan. He spoke Swahili, and indeed had been known to address an IOC Session in that tongue as proof of his identity with the black races, some of whom he had done possibly as much as anyone to help create the social and commercial fabric of Nairobi this century. He was Mayor of Nairobi in 1954.

He was a man of considerable courage. During the Kikuyu uprising, he never went to bed for over two years, sitting in an armchair with his back to the wall facing the front door through the night, suspecting that even his own domestic employees might be under orders to attack him and his family.

He was chairman of the Kenyan Olympic Committee from 1954-1968, and a member of the Commission for Olympic Aid, which preceded the Olympic Solidarity charity fund. He was also on the commission of inquiry into South Africa, during the IOC presidency of Avery Brundage, prior to South Africa's exclusion from the Olympic movement in 1970.

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OBITUARIES

REGINALD ALEXANDER

AUSTIN GILL

Austin Gill, CBE, Professor of French at Glasgow University, Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, and Director of the British Institute in Paris, died at the age of 83 on March 21. He was born in Lancashire on September 3, 1906.

During his two spells at Magdalen, interrupted by his four year directorship of the British Institute in Paris, Austin Gill was one of the outstanding teachers in post-war Oxford. His intellectual stature was as commanding as his character and appearance, and his influence will be remembered by both his colleagues and pupils.

He was a Lancashire and educated at Rugby and at Manchester University, where he was successively Research Fellow, Faulkner Fellow and Langton Fellow. He also studied at Grenoble and Paris, becoming a *Licencié en lettres* and writing a French doctorate thesis, which was never published. From 1933 to 1943, he lectured at Edinburgh University, and then made the first of several departures from the academic world, becoming British Council representative in French North Africa for a year and acting representative in France after the Liberation.

In 1945 he was elected to a Fellowship at Magdalen College, where he remained until he took up the post of Director of the British Institute in Paris in 1950. After four extremely successful years there, for which he was appointed CBE, he returned to Magdalen and the teaching he enjoyed so much after resisting tempting offers to take up a permanent diplomatic career.

Gill was deeply devoted to France and to French literature, and there was a reverence in his approach to it which made him lay down the same high standards for his pupils and his colleagues as he did for himself. It was this perfectionism which prevented him from publishing more of the results of the research which he undertook so passionately. He had an extraordinarily wide range of interests in his work - from semantics to Sartre, and from the 17th century theatre to symbolist poetry, especially Mallarmé. He spent many years preparing a book on the

French symbolist and eventually published *The Early Mallarmé*, after he had retired from academic life, in 1980. This was but Volume I, the second bearing the same title followed in 1986.

As part of these vital books, Austin Gill published only articles, beyond acting as an editor, in which capacity he put together a remarkably erudite edition of *Les Ramoneurs*, a comedy which he had himself discovered and which was probably the work of Alexandre Hardy. He tended to work slowly and preferred to impart his thoughts to his pupils - or to small over them.

A conversation with Gill on literary or linguistic matters was always an enriching and illuminating experience, and generations of Magdalen undergraduates found that he would be as patient and friendly as he was stimulating as a teacher. The same applied when he went to Glasgow University as Marshall Professor of French in 1966 and substantially altered the faculty there.

His impeccable French and his large and varied circle of friends in France - he married a Frenchwoman, Madeleine Monier, in 1939 - meant that his reputation stood particularly high abroad, despite the sparsity of his publications. His knowledge of contemporary France was encyclopaedic.

In his youth, Gill had been an expert soccer player, both in England and in France, and he attached himself to this pursuit with the same seriousness and yet the same sense of humour which he brought to all his activities. By age 30, however, he had abandoned the soccer in which he had been brought up, but in fact his human sympathies were deep and genuine.

His moral code was an exacting one, perhaps because he felt, when he abandoned the Catholicism in which he had been brought up, that he could only justify such a step if he adopted principles at least as rigorous as those he was renouncing. To know Gill was to be in contact with a most warm and understanding personality.

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LOUIS NELSON

Louis Nelson, jazz trombonist, died aged 87 on April 5. He was born on September 17, 1902.

A native of New Orleans, he was the last surviving member of the original Preservation Hall Band, which grew out of private jam sessions with Kid Thomas at a French Quarter art gallery, that became so popular it later opened under that name. Preservation Hall is dedicated to traditional jazz.

Nelson was the last link to even further back - to the original tailgate style, the way trombonists used to play in New Orleans, sitting on the tailgate of the wagon as they advertised dances.

Connaisseurs were lamenting yesterday the loss of someone who played with musicians born in the last century and played almost into the next one.

He had loyal followers who reckoned him the most loved

New Orleans trombonist after Jim Robinson. Nelson was an indefatigable international star, with a style which ranged from the rough energy of traditional New Orleans jazz to the sweet, sliding melodies of swing.

But behind the mood lay a practised technique. He could turn on a velvet tone. Nelson's mother was a graduate of the Boston Conservatory of Music and a mathematician. His father was a physician.

Nelson began in music playing alto horn but by the age of 20 had taken up the trombone. In the 1920s he played with the Kid Harris Dixieland Band and Kid Rena, the Original Tuxedo Orchestra.

He was a member of the famed Sidney Desvigne's band for 15 years, including five years playing the Mississippi River aboard a steamer.

During the Depression, he

was in the Works Progress Administration's big band and during the Second World War he played in the Naval Band. After the war, he joined Kid Thomas in a band that won acclaim.

The big band training led to him being ranked with players like Tommy Dorsey by some New Orleans cognoscenti.

He toured Europe with bands and as a soloist. Nelson's last performance was two weeks ago with his Louis Nelson All Stars.

He had been scheduled to perform this weekend at the French Quarter Festival, but complained he had not felt well since being injured in a hit-and-run accident 10 days before.

He collapsed on the night of April 4 and was rushed to hospital, but never recovered.

He is survived by his daughter, Anna Tricot of New Orleans.

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Latest wills

Lady Gammans, of Ipsing, West Sussex, Conservative MP for Hornsey 1957-66, left estate valued at £1,052,743 net. She left her estate mostly to relatives.

Mr Arthur Henry Roberts, of East Wittering, West Sussex, cinema architect, left estate valued at £188,326 net.

Mr John William Dunn, of South Shields, Tyne and Wear, left estate valued at £146,489 net. He left £33,000 and effects to personal legacies; £1,000 each to the RNLI, British Rheumatism and Arthritis Association, RNIB and British Deaf Association, and the residue to the British Heart Foundation.

Mr N.E. Braithwaite and Miss D.M. Boyd. The engagement is announced between Neil, youngest son of Mr Douglas Braithwaite, of Hants, and Miss D.M. Boyd, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Boyd and of Mrs Boyd, of Bowden, Roxburghshire.

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Appointments

Latest appointments include: Dr David S. Ingram to be Regius Keeper, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, from April 1.

Professor Philip Garrett to succeed Mr Michael Lloyd as Balliol of The Schools of King Edward the Sixth in Birmingham, on April 1. Professor Garrett holds the chair of Biological Sciences at Birmingham University.

Mr Charles Hogg, director of Citywide Voluntary Services Council, to be Chairman of the Transport Users' Consultative Committee for Wales.

Mr R.E. Matter and Miss D.E. de Vries. The marriage took place on Saturday, March 31, 1990, in London, between Mr Roy Ewart Matter, of Kensington, and Miss D.E. de Vries, of Kensington and The Hague.

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**Compiled by Peter Dear
and Gillian Maxey**

Peter Waymark

● Unlike many figures from the 1970s punk movement, Vivienne Westwood has not only survived, but remains as outrageous as ever. In Gillian Greenwood's interview for *The Seattle Book Show* (TV, 10.35pm), Westwood declares: "I have a in-built clock which reacts against anything orthodox." And she draws her inspiration from such traditional societies as Edwardian England and ancient Greece - and says that, her favourite word in fashion is elegance. Her erstwhile partner Malcolm McLaren supplements an extensive interview with Westwood, while the dancer Michael Clark takes on the role of model. But it would be interesting to know who actually buys Westwood's clothes, which seem self beyond most pockets.

● Pick of the rest: *Washes Whiter* (BBC2, 6.05pm), another revealing dip into the history of the television commercial; *Most Wanted* (BBC1, 10.15pm); *Man* (BBC2, 6.45pm), a rare interview with Lord Goodman... and *The Nat King Cole Show* (Channel 4, 4.55pm), rediscovered recordings from the 1950s.



Peter Davalle

● A life of Chekhov by the same team (compiler, Michael Bakewell, director Rosemary Hart) responsible for the previous *Life of Dickens, Literature in My Mind. Medicine My Wife* (Radio 4.3.00pm), tackles Chekhov in the same way it tackled Dickens... no narrator, short quotes from sources not always readily identifiable but identifiably reliable, and quotes from the future shedding advance light on travellers in the present. In short, an A30 Z of Chekhov, except that this alphabet does not obey the normal rules of biographical chronology... *Open News* (Radio 3, 6.15pm), breaks new ground for radio magazines, and is well worth a try. The magazine's anchor is an confidently and amusingly the recent Pillars of Society, possibly of the Royal Opera House, I don't see how it can possibly fail.

FM Stereo and MW
News on the half-hour from
5.30am until 12.30pm, then at
2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30pm
5.00am Gary King 7.00 The
Bruno and Liz Breakfast Show
10.00 Dave Lee Travis

Neil Stampo and **MTW** 4.00am
 David Allan 6.00am Graham Knight
 7.20 Good Morning Sunday
 8.05 Melodics For You 11.00 Your
 Radio 2 All-Time Greats 11.55-
 1.45pm Liverpool v Crystal Palace
 (**MTW** only) 2.00 Benny Grey
 3.00 Sounds Easy 3.30
 Oliver v Underwood (**MTW**
 only) 4.00 iSalonés 4.30 Stop
 Something Simple 5.20 Charlie
 Chester 7.00 Sunday Serenade
 7.30 Opera Nights 8.30
 Sunday Half-Hour 9.00 Your
 Hundred Best Tunes 10.05
 The Arts Programme 12.05pm
 Sunday Afternoon Fifties 1.00-
 4.00 Night

6.55 **am** Weather and News
Headlines
7.00 Handel (Brookes Passion,
closing sequence: Soloists;
Stadt-singerchor Halle;
Capella Savaria under
McGegan; Concerto grosso

counter-tenor, John Elwes, tenor, Max van Egmond, both perform "The Mass in B minor," his own summing-up of his life and music. The final concert in the series

3.00-10.30 Test Match Special (Repeat) West Indies vs England. Commentary on the fourth Test; from Bridgetown, Barbados

4.25 Poet of the Month (FIM only): Kit Wrights reads "The Day Room" and "Only the Barbed"

4.35 Celebrity Recital (FIM only): Daniel Barenboim, piano, performs Mozart (Fantasy and Sonata in C minor, K 475 and 457); Beethoven (63 Variations Op. 9, No. 12, and K. 19

piano): Dusek (Chansons) Roudeau à la Turque; Jan. Panenka, fortepiano); C.P.E. Bach (Concerto in G F. J. Paillard Chamber Orchestra under conductor, Paillard, with Claude Alain organ); Pergolesi (Stabat Mater); Solisti Cameraistica di Lugano under Loehrer)

0.30 Music Working with Michael Oliver. Polish Up the Image: the marketing of young musicians is examined by Hugh Canning

East Meets West: a conversation with star player Ravi Shankar; Teaching Folk Music: a visit to the Ole Bull Academy in

guides us through the world of temporal opera, including, this month: Wolfgang Sawallisch, Mark Elder, Falcio Lott, John Coxon and Pierre Audi (see Choices).

7.00 Die neugierigen Frauen (The Inquisitive Women) (The original Bevanian Sande) Orchestra under Alfred Sander, with Alfred Kuhn, bass, as Orsavia; Robert Sander, tenor, as Florindo; Jan Vack, tenor, as Leandro; Hans Günther Nockher, bass, as Pantalone; Wolfgang Gauch, baritone, as Lelio; Daphne Evangelatos, mezzo-soprano, as Beatrice. Orsavia's wife; Sabine Paulmann, soprano, as Rosaura, their daughter; Julia Faulkner, soprano, as Eleonora, Lott's wife; Christian Goodrich, baritone, as Don Pasquale; Julia Kaufmann, soprano, as Columbine, perform Wolfgang's first and second comic operas, 1838, after Goldoni's 1733 play. From last year's Munich Opera

1.50 Fantasy Pieces, op 73, Lutoslawski (Dance Preludes); Brahms (Sonata in F minor, Op 120 No 1) String Quartets: Musikverein Kuchl Quartet performs Haydn (Quartet in A, Op 55 No 1); Ivan Erod (Quartet No 2)

2.30 Towards Bach (F#m only from 3.00): Cantata: La Petite Bande under Gustav Leonhardt, with Grete De Reyghere, soprano, Guillermette Laurens, mezzo, Michael Chance.

0.05 Third Ear (FIM only) with Robert Hewison

0.30 No Greater Love: A meditation on Jesus's journey towards Calvary and its meaning for us

1.30 Middle Fiddler: Emmanuel Vardi, viola, introduces and plays music by Kreisler, Debussy, Faure and Francis Schubert, with Kathryn Sturrock, piano

2.00 News 12.05 Late Close

All times in GMT, Add an hour for BST.

5.00 Times News 5.09 24 Hours Live 5.30
London's Main 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Jazz
6.30 The 6.30 News 6.30
7.30 From Our Own Correspondent 7.40
Choice 7.50 Weather 8.00 News
8.09 Words of Faith 8.15 The Pressure
8.15 The 8.15 News 8.15
Press 8.15 Tech Talk 8.30 Friends
Review 8.40 Book Choice 8.45 Show
Story: Mehmet Say 10.01 Science in Action
10.01 The 10.01 News 10.01
News about Britain 11.15 From Our Own
Correspondent 11.30 The Ken Bruce
Show 12.05 Play of the Week 12.30
12.30 The 12.30 News 12.30
News and 24 Hours on Sunday Live 1.40
Sports Roundup 2.01 The Green Debate
Phone-In 3.00 Newsdesk 3.16 930 English
3.16 The 3.16 News 3.16
3.30 Today Live 5.00 News 4.08 News

LW (6) Stereo on FM
5:55am Shipping Forecast 6.00
5:55am Weather
6.10 Prelude with Marjorie
Lofthouse 6.30 Morning
Has Broken with Jack
Hywel-Davies 6.35 (6.55
Weather 7.00 News 7.10
Papers
7.15 On Your Farm: A visit to the
Herefordshire farm of Sir
John and Lady Cotterell
7.40 Sunday, end 7.55
Weather 8.00 News 8.10
Sunday Papers 8.30
by John Mortimer on
behalf of the Royal National
Institute for the Blind 8.55
Weather
9.00 News
9.10 Sunday Papers
9.15 Letter From America by
Alistair Cooke (M)

10.15 ST George, Jerusalem
The Archers omnibus edition

11.15 New Stand with Robin Lustig

11.30 Pick of the Week with Margaret Howard (s) (r)

12.15 ~~pm~~ Desert Island Discs: Sue Lawley with photographer Lucinda Lambton, who is also a conservationist of architectural heritage (s) (r)

12.35 Weather

1.00 The World This Weekend with Nick Clarke 1.55 Shipping Forecast

2.00 Gardeners' Question Time: Members of the Presteigne Gardening Club. Powsy, put their queries to Dr Stefan Buccacchi, Fred Downham

3.00 Literature Is My Mistress — *Melville's My Wife (new series)*: A seven-part series compiled by Michael Bakawell (see Chonoles)
3.30 A Good Day Out (new series): A month of memories about fairgrounds from the wars (1 of 4)
4.00 News; Soundtrack Part 8: *Southern Story*: A new series of Soundside which provides a safe haven for homeless youngsters.
4.42 Profile: Edward Shackleton talks to the trumpeter John Wallace

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 105.9kHz (London) Stereo FM-104.3; Radio 2: 90.2 kHz; 121.51kHz; 247fm; FM 92.4, 94.6, 9. LBC: 1152kHz(267m); F: 95.5, 95.9, 96.4
RADIO 4: 145.9kHz



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Just book and paper
return fare, between us
- You can choose
sail out in July or August
Children's kite will win
And, for every dollar
£1 to the charity itself.



SEALINK
Save the Child

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Abstract

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**BRITISH
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BA captain quits after inquiry into hotel scare

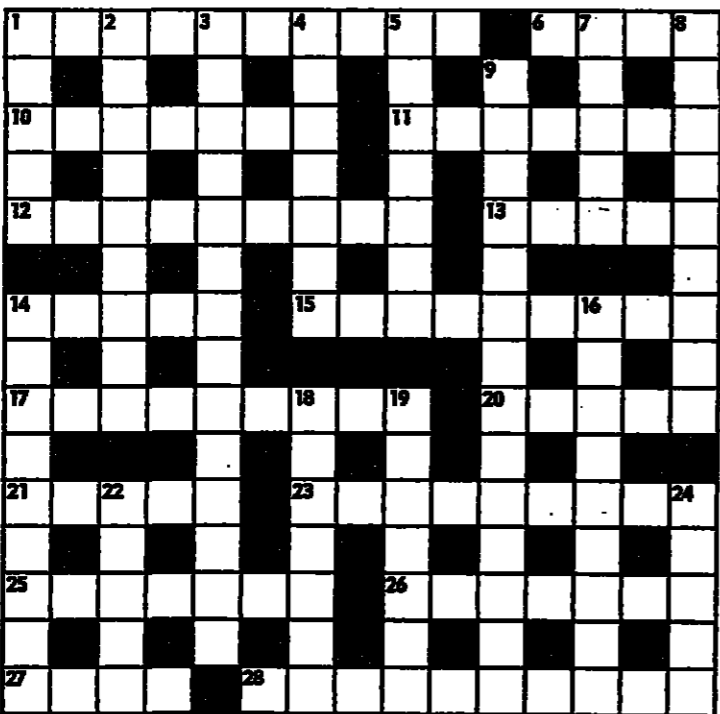
Fledgeling ballet dancers take protective steps



Greens' offer to unions

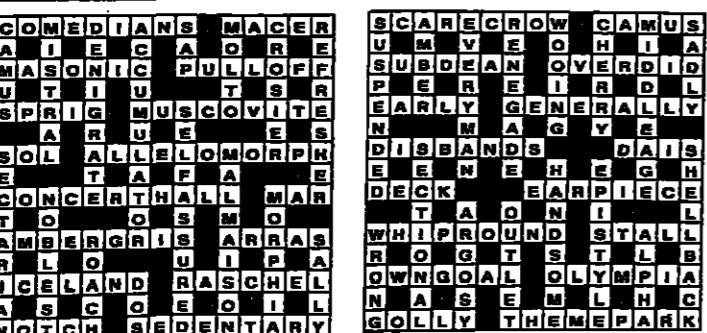
Stay calm, says Howe

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,262



ACROSS

- 1 Get down to brass tacks giving speech to foreign country (4,6).
 - 2 Double the ends over (4).
 - 3 Request put on an ecclesiastical organisation obliquely (7).
 - 4 It's about to stop being solitary (7).
 - 5 The old given a right to ring all the time (4-5).
 - 6 In America, connected many loose ends (5).
 - 7 Hurt a child, a little boy (5).
 - 8 Like Helen, got carried away (9).
 - 9 Environmental polluter gives dance a fresh start (6-3).
 - 10 Pigeon with habitat beside river (5).
 - 11 Line from a man of letters, we hear best (5).
 - 12 Vulgar slogan – "Bogeyes all bailed in birdies" (9).
 - 13 Jack got crack – that's clear (7).
 - 14 Go in van, touring the city (7).
 - 15 The boy to move around (4).
 - 16 Enthusiastically made up, painted and gory (10).
- DOWN**
- 1 Creep like an amphibian? (5).
 - 2 Coming from a hotel, ski very quickly (4,1,4).
 - 3 Town will get burdens shifted (9,5).
 - 4 Deer – a thousand die before being reared (7).
 - 5 Half of them finished with improvement (7).
 - 6 A superior poet (5).
 - 7 The month for lobster (9).
 - 8 Cold that, in general, could become warmer (7,7).
 - 9 The surrounding numbers are level (3,6).
 - 10 Secure a lot of seed and plant (3).
 - 11 Enthusiast put up with cause of annoyance (7).
 - 12 A wreath for Judy (7).
 - 13 Some medicine – a sedative –



SHEAFFER.

WORD-WATCHING

TIMES WEATHERCALL

WEATHER

ABROAD

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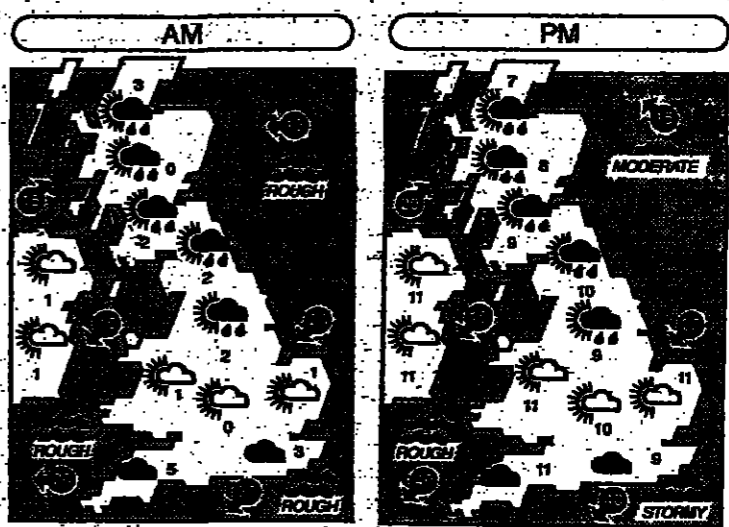
YESTERDAY

Scotland will have a show-

AROUND BRITAIN

[illegible]

London 7.43 pm to 6.21 am.
 Bristol 7.53 pm to 6.31 am.



Has Europe switched to nuclear electricity?

Move to wind up Bond company

From David Tweed
Sydney

MR KERRY Packer's Consolidated Press Holdings has applied to have the media arm of Mr Alan Bond's rapidly-dwindling empire wound up.

Mr Tom Hughes QC, for CPH, alleged in the Supreme Court of Western Australia that directors of Bond Media Limited (BOM) organized the accounts to disguise Aus\$126 million (£58.6 million) which could have been used to pay off part of an Aus\$200 million debt to Mr Packer.

Included in the allegations was a claim that BOM made a Aus\$551 million loan to one of its subsidiaries as part of a complex transaction to cover up its profits.

Mr Hughes claimed that, as a preference shareholder, CPH was denied access to Aus\$51 million in interest on the loan as well as substantial management fees.

It was alleged the transaction was engineered to delay Mr Packer's move to redeem his stake in the company — a delay which was costing him Aus\$90,000 a day.

He said: "We say the account of the company (BOM) and its various subsidiaries have been so arranged as to appear to eliminate profit."

Mr Hughes said it was alleged that 13 per cent interest was charged on the loan to the end of the financial year (June 30, 1989) but no interest was charged after that date.

The court was told that if interest had been charged after June, Mr Packer would have been entitled to a total of Aus\$121 million if the payments were projected to last month.

The court heard that the Aus\$200 million in BOM preference shares could only be redeemed if the company recorded a profit or if there was a fresh issue of shares.

Mr Hughes said the allegations formed the core of the argument that BOM be wound up or that the Aus\$200 million in preference shares held by CPH should be redeemed.

Agreeing that the matter was urgent, Master White set a hearing date for May 2 — an unusually early date for a winding-up application.

New-look Laird Group lifts profits to £43.7m

By Colin Campbell

LAIRD Group, which sold the rump of its Metro-Cammell Weymann train-making interests last year and now concentrates on car body seals, reports strong profits growth in 1989.

It says its balance sheet is particularly fit for the 1990s. By the end of the 1980s, substantially all Laird's original mechanical engineering businesses had been sold. It says new businesses started in Britain to provide products and services for the computer and building industries have the potential to become substantial profits centres in the 1990s.

Pre-tax profits rose from £21.3 million to £43.7 million — although adjustment for disposals shows the advance to have been made from a 1988 pre-tax profits base of £36.7 million — on a turnover in the year ended December of £487.3 million (£553.8 million).

Mr John Gardiner, chairman and chief executive, says the final dividend is being raised from 5.2p to 5.8p — as forecast at the time of the August one-for-five rights issue at 22.5p which raised £35.2 million. This makes a year's total 9.7p (8.7p). Laird shares rose 6p to 244p. The 1989 pre-tax profit includes the benefit of £1.8 million from favourable exchange rates.

Mr Gardiner says the busi-

nesses that will take Laird into the 1990s operate mainly overseas and are largely involved with the manufacture and distribution of synthetic rubber and plastics.

Less than 20 per cent of profits were generated from Britain in 1989. Eighty per cent came from West Germany, France and the US.

The net effect of disposals was a £14.6 million extraordinary credit accounted for below the pre-tax profits line, compared with a £14.5 million extraordinary item in 1988. Net earnings were 30.3p a share compared with 10.4p.

The sealing systems division showed only a "slow improvement" because of costs of bringing a new Spanish plant on stream. Within industrial products, there was a good performance by rubber and plastic automotive component businesses in France, while in Britain aerospace components and mining conveyor companies both reported improved profits.

The benefit of the rights issue, favourable exchange rates and cash proceeds from disposals has improved the balance sheet. Shareholders' funds at the year end were £147.4 million (£80.8 million), while despite the high level of capital investment during 1989 net borrowings had fallen from £37.4 million to £20 million.



Hitting the dividend target: John Gardiner of Laird

Pay round in Japan 'a spur to spending'

From A Correspondent

WAGE increases following Japan's annual pay negotiations are unlikely to rekindle inflation but should spur consumer spending, according to economists.

The Japanese Trade Union Confederation (Rengo), with 8 million affiliated members, has so far won rises for the year from April 1 averaging 5.95 per cent, up from a final 5.1 per cent in 1989-90.

"Such a figure, or even a bit more than 6 per cent, is unlikely to cause inflation and will only boost private spending," said Mr. Yoshiaki Shimada, economist at Wako Research Institute of Economics.

Wage talks with most major unions are over and remaining discussions are expected to be completed by early May.

The increases won so far will benefit wage earners more than last year, when a 3 per cent consumption tax was introduced from April 1.

"Consumer spending is expected to grow faster this fiscal year than the previous year, but the rise in consumer prices is likely to be narrowed," said Mr. Toshiaki Kakimoto, chief economist at Sumitomo Bank.

The Bank of Japan is worried about inflationary pressure from the tight labour market and is watching the wage talks with interest, central bank officials said.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Dawsongroup figures slump to £2.7m

PRE-TAX profits at Dawsongroup, the truck dealer and rental company, slumped to £2.7 million in the year to end-December after £6.05 million last time. The company had given warning at the interim stage that difficult conditions in the truck rental market would result in substantially lower profits for the full year and a jump in interest costs.

Operating profits slipped from £9.07 million to £2.89 million, on turnover up 12.6 per cent to £51.2 million. Interest payments more than doubled, from £3.02 million to £6.19 million. Earnings per share fell from 14.3p to 7.2p. There is a final dividend of 1.6p (nil), making an improved total of 3.2p (2.4p) for the year.

Bourne End profits surge

BOURNE End Properties reported a jump in pre-tax profits to £994,000 in 1989, against £432,000. Earnings per share rose from 3.5p to 8.9p. The final dividend is 2p (1.6p), making 3p (2.35p). Property sales were £10.8 million. There were no sales in 1988. Net tangible assets reached £20 million, or £2.35 per share, up 199 per cent.

Tussauds plan for Alton

TUSSAUDS Group, a subsidiary of Pearson, yesterday formally completed the acquisition of Alton Towers, the Midlands theme park, for £60 million in cash and the assumption of £35 million of debts. Mr. Michael Herbert, chairman of Tussauds, said: "We have already identified the possible site for a new ride of international class."

Turriff buys Staffwise

TURRIFF, the Warwick construction, plant hire, personnel and marketing services group, has acquired Staffwise Employment Agency for a maximum of £2.15 million.

Turriff is buying out the interests of the sole owners, Mr. TR Wiseman and Mr. RJ Harris and their wives, for £1.6 million in cash and about £100,000 in an allotment of 25,088 new Turriff ordinary shares. A maximum of £450,000 will be paid if performance targets are met. For the year ended October 1989 Staffwise had audited pre-tax profits of £252,000 and net assets of £151,000.

Profits slip at Beradin

PRE-TAX profits at Beradin, the plantation and investment company, fell from £499,939 to £402,432 in the year ending December 31. Earnings per share slipped from 1.86p to 1.74p. The final dividend is 1p (1.15p). Turnover declined from £965,524 to £738,692. The company blamed a fall in commodity prices.

Aid mission for Poland

JAPAN'S Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) will send an economic mission to Poland and Hungary from April 9-20 to study how Japan can help them to revitalize their economies. The mission, comprising MITI officials, bankers and corporate executives, will meet government officials and businessmen.

Sale delay hits result

AUDIT & General, the property and industrial group, has blamed a delay in a £500,000 property sale from the first-half into the second-half for a fall in interim pre-tax profits from £712,000 to £207,000. Turnover rose from £3.76 million to £5.79 million in the six months to end-December.

Earnings per share fell from 1.57p to 0.41p and the interim dividend, the first since 1985, is 0.3p. Pre-tax profits in the industrial division rose from £8,170 to £392,000 while there were losses in the property division of £151,000 (£795,000) and £33,700 (£975 loss) in the mining division.

GFW has indirect interest in Harlin

From A Correspondent

GOODMAN Fielder Wattie, the failed bidder for Ranks Hovis McDougall, has revealed it bought an indirect interest in Harlin Holdings, the private company controlled by Elders DXL executives which has 55 per cent of Elders.

Goodman Fielder said in response to a query from the Australian Stock Exchange that in August 1988 it took a 22.9 per cent stake in Bamis Finance Co, which holds 70 million subordinated participating notes in Harlin.

The Bamis stake cost Aus\$60 million (£28 million),

Goodman Fielder said, and is still in its books at that price. Goodman decided to sell it last year but it has not yet been sold. Goodman said it made the statement in response to the query and recent "misconceived" reports. Several reports speculated that Goodman Fielder had taken a stake worth Aus\$60 million in Harlin.

Analysts say Harlin faces mounting problems as the Elders share price falls. The shares closed at a two-year low of Aus\$2.02 yesterday. Brokers estimate Harlin's debts at about Aus\$3.3 billion.

Warren to leave Rex Williams

MR FRANK Warren, the boxing promoter, is resigning from the board of Rex Williams Leisure. An announcement to the Stock Exchange stated that Mr Warren had been unable to play a role in the affairs of the company since his shooting in November.

Mr John Botros will continue as acting chairman, with Mr Jeff Williams as chief executive. This week, Mr Williams said the company had received a takeover approach from an unidentified source after asking for shares to be suspended. Before suspension they were 10p.

Software firms win MoD study deals

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

TWO British consortia have been awarded contracts by the Ministry of Defence to develop Europe-wide computer software standards under a new Portable Common Tool Environment programme.

A group comprising STC, GEC-Marconi and led by SD-Scicon, a software engineering company based at Camberley, Surrey, has secured one of the feasibility studies.

Another has been awarded to a group led by Logica, a Cambridge computer company.

The groups are being paid £500,000 to conduct the stud-

ies. Of the two consortia, only one will win a multi-million contract to help implement software harmonization throughout the Independent European Programme Group (IEPG), which includes Nato countries.

Mr Elwyn Wareham of SD-Scicon said software standards were being seen as increasingly important if Europe was to compete with the Far East and American industry.

The British consortia will be studying ways of harmonizing software design and engineering standards on Digital VAX computers.

Intelligent,
high performance
executive
with a mind of his own.



Intelligent,
high performance
executive
with a mind of its own.



The Maxima is the executive sedan for the discerning individual. An elegantly styled, aerodynamic thoroughbred, whose sophisticated network of computers provides it with a mind of its own, constantly monitoring engine and transmission performance.

Put your foot down and the 3 litre, fuel injected V6 engine surges you to an exhilarating top speed of 132mph. To control this impressive power, the Maxima offers electronic 4-speed automatic transmission, with overdrive and switchable power/comfort mode.

Handling is crisp and responsive, with variable ratio power assisted steering and ABS, operating on discs all round, for complete control. The Maxima SR comes equipped with a wealth of luxury and labour saving features, but, unlike other manufacturers, such as BMW and Mercedes,

Nissan provide them all at no extra cost. Like remote control, alarm activating central locking, air conditioning, cruise control, electric windows and door mirrors, electrically heated and adjusted front seats and stereo radio/cassette. And leather upholstery and a CD player in

the SRX, all add to a unique driving experience. The Maxima, a unique combination of design, innovation, craftsmanship and engineering excellence. When it comes to producing an executive car that stands out from the crowd - Nissan know how.



Fiat and Ford seek global deals

From A Correspondent

TALKS between Fiat, the Italian motor manufacturer, and Ford could lead to global accords on tractors, agriculture and heavy industrial vehicles.

The two companies have decided not to release further details until the talks are over and firm agreements have been reached. But, said Fiat, their respective product and market identities would be preserved.

The talks "could lead to accords, at the international level, regarding the tractor and agricultural machinery sectors," it said. "Fiat and Ford also are involved in

other talks to seek possible areas of co-operation in the sector of heavy industry vehicles."

Fiat and Ford held talks five years ago about a major link-up in the car sector, but the lengthy negotiations broke down after disagreement over who would control the venture.

They later submitted rival bids for Alfa Romeo, the Italian sportscar manufacturer, with Fiat's offer ultimately accepted by the Italian government in October 1986.

Fiat also revealed it is holding

preliminary talks with Iran about a vehicle production agreement.

Fiat shares were actively traded, adding 60 lire at the close to L10,300 (£5.05) and then climbing to L10,345 shortly after the company's announcement of the Ford talks.

There has been speculation for several months that Fiat was considering an equity and industrial link-up with another car producer, such as France's Peugeot or Japan's Mitsubishi Motors.

But Fiat has denied there are negotiations with any of these groups.

Barclays may become a jewel in the Reichmann crown

In the drama of London property the spotlight has moved to centre stage and the bearded, skull-capped figure of Paul Reichmann. It will remain there until the play is finished, for Reichmann is now the most powerful figure in property. He bestrides London like a colossus.

Property development within and on the periphery of the City is governed by a triumvirate. Reichmann is Caesar Augustus and Godfrey Bradman (Rosehaugh) and Stuart Lipton (Stanhope Properties) alternate in the roles of Lepidus and Pompey. They are redrawing the property map of London in a way that kings, even passionate princes, cannot do. Bradman and Lipton are responsible for the massive Broadgate development adjoining Liverpool Street station and for the vast King's Cross scheme. But Reichmann owns a third of Stanhope, bought for £137 million in May 1988, and 8.25 per cent of a weakened Rosehaugh, acquired (or revealed) this week for £29 million. Reichmann also has Canary Wharf and a vision of turning this area of London's Docklands into a city within a city.

Ten million square feet of new office space on 20 separate building sites will turn the Isle of Dogs into something like another downtown Manhattan. Ten million square feet is equivalent to about 14 per cent of total office space in the City of London. To do it requires not only skill, money and patience but the power to defy the historical tide of urban development which flows not toward the east but toward the west.

Olympia & York is the private, family-owned Canadian company through which the immensely rich Paul Reichmann and two brothers operate. The original Canary Wharf scheme was tottering when O & Y took it over from the colourful, larger-than-life G Ware ("B Ware") Travelstead in 1987. Along the way the brothers have acquired interests in other, nearby sites and ventures. Lipton, for his part, has his own Dockland development eyes on the old Royal Dock.

The Reichmanns' Canary Wharf scheme is of the order of £4 billion. They are looking to completion of the first half of Canary Wharf some time next year. "Looking to" is the wrong phrase: "determined to ensure" is more accurate in the light of their abrupt dismissal last week of Ellis Don McAlpine, project manager on the 800 ft office tower, which was unable to prevent "frustrating delays."

The major gap in O & Y's calculations at present is the vast amount of space which important, space-eating companies, despite heavy blandishments and tempting inducements, have declined to take. Two have signed up,



KENNETH FLEET

Merrill Lynch and Texaco, both American, both clients of O & Y in North America. Paul Reichmann appears sanguine. His is the long view, which a financially powerful and confident private company can afford to take. And he may be about to pull off a great coup that would bring Canary Wharf into life and shake the property world to its core.

I hear a whisper in the caves that Barclays has begun to think seriously about the advantages of being a Reichmann tenant. It would involve moving a mass of staff and vacating acres of offices in the City, a daunting prospect but the stakes are high and one which I have no doubt could be made financially attractive to the bank.

In the first place, operating in one location should improve efficiency, reduce costs and help the profit and loss account. In the second place, surplus on sales of property assets in the City would be added to reserves and strengthen the base of Barclays' balance sheet. In the third place, the bank through O & Y might receive hefty tax benefits as the Canary Wharf development is in an enterprise zone.

The impact of such a deal on Canary Wharf would be overwhelmingly positive. Canary Wharf in the hands of any developers other than the Reichmanns would have been dismissed as too chancy to touch. If, or when, they can induce a major British tenant to move to the Isle of Dogs — and Barclays as a leading player in the financial services industry would be ideal — then others would assuredly follow, despite the miseries of working on a building site with woefully inadequate transport services, surrounded by hostile natives.

The consequences for the London commercial property market would vary. At the end of last year Jones Lang Wootton produced figures showing that the office space in central London and in Docklands totalled 155 million sq ft: 23 million sq ft was under construction; and another 53 million sq ft was planned or proposed.

More to the point in the Canary Wharf context, 45 per cent of space in central London was built before the 1939-45 war, 31 per cent between the end of the war and 1979, and only 24 per cent since 1979.

Thus up to two-thirds of London

office space might be obsolete, with facilities for the fast-growing service industries notably below modern requirements. Widespread obsolescence is mirrored in the widening disparity in rents between new and old buildings. A move from the City to Canary Wharf by a substantial group would depress rents for outdated premises and offer exciting opportunities for refurbishment and redevelopment on some prime sites. The property market as a whole would be given a lift and the Reichmanns would be on their way to a remarkable double.

A Jewish family whose members after travails in Hungary, Austria, France and Spain found their way to Toronto in 1954 and did their first substantial Canadian property development in 1975.

They bought their first New York properties in 1976. They completed the World Financial Centre there in 1986. O & Y is now the biggest landlord in Manhattan — a feat the brothers seem destined to repeat in London commercial property, more or less by the same means but in an even shorter time.

Their stakes in Stanhope and Rosehaugh extend their influence over a wide area of an industry in which they have become the most powerful player in three years. They have "no present intention" of bidding for Rosehaugh, which because of its liquidity problem is there for the taking, but their shareholding has stiffened the Rosehaugh price.

It is a coincidence but an interesting one that the only significant takeover bids in the market at present are both for property companies. One is an agreed bid of £409 million from the Scandinavian insurance group, SPP, for London & Edinburgh Trust, the company built up by the brothers John and Peter Beckwith. The other is the joint Chelsfield-P & O offer (through Pall Mall Properties) for Laing Properties.

The raised, and final, bid of 725p a share cash for Laing is not certain of winning the day. Standard Life, a knowledgeable property shareholder, took it without hesitation, and if the 23 Laing family and charitable trusts remained solidly opposed their 43 per cent alone is not enough to keep Pall Mall out.

On the other hand, I wonder whether Sir Jeffrey Sterling and Elliott Bernard have it in mind, having made a tight-fisted offer, to retire from the field with a substantial holding (35-40 per cent) and use that as a launching pad for a second offensive in due time. If so the Laing share price should not fall far if Brian Chilver, the chairman, and his phalanx of faithful trusts succeed in holding the line.

Betacom gives warning after profits slump

By Our City Staff

BETACOM, the telephone distributor, yesterday warned it will fall into a first-half loss after reporting a drop in 1989 pre-tax profits from £2.61 million to just £278,000.

Mr Dennis Baylin, chairman and chief executive, told investors last month to expect a significant drop in 1989 profits.

He blamed the poor results on the slowdown in the high street, the disastrous launch of a low-price facsimile machine and delays in receiving telecommunications licences for various joint ventures in Europe.

"It's really a combination of a number of factors; added to everything else we didn't really develop new products with the same aggression we had in the past. Let's just say it never rains, it pours," said Mr Baylin, who expects to "substantially improve" results by 1991.

Betacom, which plans to "re-launch" itself with a new logo and new products next month, said it is giving up on the fax machine market altogether following the failure of its traditional retail outlets, including Dixons, Currys and Comet, to sell the product.

The company was left with large stocks it was unable to sell, resulting in an exceptional writedown of £500,000 for the year.

Mr Baylin said the stock level is now worth £1 million, and that it is having "no



Planning a May re-launch: Dennis Baylin, chairman

Guinness trial told that Ronson could over-trust

By A Correspondent

A small decision by Mr Gerald Ronson, the multimillionaire businessman, to support Guinness in its campaign to win Distillers brought him into the legal share-swap scandal, a court has been told.

Mr Ronson, the head of the Heron Corporation, who invested £25 million in Guinness shares in return for a 25 per cent stake in the firm, was described at Southwark Crown Court as over-trusting in his decision.

Mr Alan Goldman, now deputy chief executive of Heron, but joint finance director at the time, said the first he knew of Heron's involvement was when Mr Anthony Parnes, a syndicate broker, told him that Mr Ronson had agreed to make the investment. Mr Goldman admitted that after a Government probe was launched into the 1986 record £2.7 billion bid for Distillers, Mr Ronson was warned he had not been given warning about the implications of the move.

Mr Timothy Cassel, QC, defending Mr Ronson, said the court now knew of the

transaction. Heron "entered into" virtually instantaneous "a sale of the best of others" without giving the consideration it perhaps deserved.

The court heard how Mr Ronson left school aged 15 without academic or professional qualifications, and went on to build up the £1.8 billion Heron empire. Mr Ronson holds a 15 per cent stake in the group, one of Britain's largest private corporations.

Mr Goldman said Mr Ronson was a good delegator and if he trusted employees, he allowed them to get on with

their job, but always wanted to be kept informed. Mr Goldman added that Mr Ronson sometimes tended to over-trust those whose reputation he respected.

He also said that after the Guinness shares were sold through a nominee company, Guinness was invoiced for £2.5 million by Heron Management and for £3.3 million by PIMA, its US subsidiary.

He said it was decided to put the PIMA payment into the loan and savings to bring up profit forecasts, adding that Mr Ronson had later told the Heron board that the money was "a gift."

Mr Goldman said: "I knew we had been acquiring shares in Guinness and I thought it was a success fee, he may have told me it was a success fee."

Mr Ernest Saunders, aged 54, the former Guinness chief, Mr Ronson, aged 50, Mr Parnes, aged 44, and Sir Jack Lyons, the financier, variously deny 24 charges including theft, false accounting and breaches of the Companies Act. The trial continues on Monday.



Ronson says decision

WSP buys engineers for £3.6m

By Our City Staff

WSP Holdings, the consulting engineer, which now derives 10 per cent of its profits from the upgrading and refurbishment of old Victorian prisons, is acquiring two other building service engineers.

The company, which is moving up from the Unlisted Securities Market to the full list on May 10, is paying an initial £1.86 million to acquire both Donald Rudd, a Watford, Hertfordshire, industrial and public sector consultant, and 71.5 per cent of Parsons Brown, a commercial consultant operating in Bristol, London and Reading.

WSP, which has an option to acquire the remaining 28.5

per cent of Parsons Brown from its management in 1991, is to pay up to £1.81 million more for both businesses in a deferred consideration upon exercising its options.

It is funding the deal via the issue of 2.82 million ordinary shares at 97½p of which about 743,000 will be the initial share element and 2.07 million will be used to raise £1.62 million net of expenses. Of this, £1.102 million will be the cash element and the rest will provide working capital.

"The acquisitions represent a major advance in the development of WSP's core consulting engineering business. Both companies are

long-established and well-respected," said Mr Chris Cole, the managing director. "The nature of the services provided by Parsons Brown and Donald Rudd, as well as the geographical location of their operations, are highly complementary to WSP's existing businesses."

Donald Rudd, which made pre-tax profits of £79,705 in the year to end-January, provides design services for mechanical, electrical, public health and fire engineering systems for industrial and public sector clients. Parsons Brown, which reported pre-tax profits of £172,575 for the year to end-August, 1989, has

mostly commercial clients and concentrates on the South-west.

WSP, which said it is benefiting from Government plans to spend more money upgrading both motorways and prisons, yesterday reported a 49.3 per cent rise in 1989 pre-tax profits to £966,000. Turnover was up 51.3 per cent to £5.17 million, while earnings per share climbed 30.3 per cent from 6.6p to 8.8p.

A final dividend of 1.5p (1.3p) makes a total for the year of 2.4p (2.1p).

Mr Cole hopes WSP will win the contract to upgrade Strangeways after the riot.

LEP to buy all Profit Systems

LEP Group, the freight company, is to acquire the outstanding 40 per cent of Profit Systems, the US company. LEP does not already own the 60 per cent of Profit Systems it acquired in 1987.

The acquisition provides for the merger of an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of LEP with Profit Systems.

Under the revised deal, announced in January, Profit Systems' shareholders will receive \$11.75 for each share. GA shares split: Existing General Accident shareholders will receive two shares in General Accident Plc, a new company for every ordinary share held in the existing group. Convertible loan noteholders will receive on conversion two ordinary shares in the new company for every ordinary share which would have been issued. Preference shares will be repaid.

Breedon ahead

Breedon, the quarries and builder, made £42.2 million (£36 million) pre-tax profits on a turnover of £16.46 million (£16.63 million) in the year to end-January. Earnings are 9.66p (8.33p) and the final dividend is 2.75p (2.5p), making 4.25p (3.75p).

Deal allowed

Compagnie Générale des Eaux's acquisition of a majority stake in AMI Healthcare is not to be referred to the Monopolies Commission. AMI shares, subject to a bid for the minority, were unchanged at 368p.

Jacks slides

Pre-tax profits for the year to end-January fell from £1.03 million to £571,000 at William Jacks, the Berkshire car trader. Earnings are 2.09p (5.93p). The final dividend is 1.1p making 2p (2.2p).

New Camford payout

CAMFORD, Engineering, which is fighting a hostile £64 million bid from Markheath Securities, will, as part of its defence, pay shareholders "new annual property dividends" totalling 15p net a share for at least the next three years.

The new dividends will be on top of those declared out of engineering profits.

Camford also announced a revised property valuation,

Elys' profits in advance

By Our City Staff

ELYS of Wimbledon, the department store business, saw pre-tax profits rise from £805,000 to £867,000 on sales of £11.7 million up from £11.1 million.

Earnings per share rose from 43.6p to 46.9p and the final dividend is 13.5p making 14.5p for the year up from 13.5p. The shares were unchanged at 975p.

Waterford chief resigns

By Melinda Wittstock

WATERFORD Wedgwood, the strike-torn and loss-making Irish crystal and china group, sustained another blow yesterday with the resignation of Mr Jim Collieran, the group's US chief executive.

The company said Mr Collieran's departure was unconnected with Mr Tony O'Reilly's plans to improve Waterford Wedgwood's lagging US fortunes with a major marketing initiative. With Morgan Stanley the US investment bank, Mr O'Reilly, the Irish-born chairman of HJ Heinz, is injecting £102 million (£98 million) into the debt-ridden company in return for a 29.9 per cent stake.

A company spokesman said: "Mr Collieran has been planning to leave for some time. His departure has nothing to do with recent developments. The parting is completely amicable." He would not say whether Mr Collieran is receiving compensation.

Waterford said Mr Collieran had left the company to pursue other career interests. Mr Collieran is also to resign from the main board. He joined the company in 1983.

Mr Redmond O'Donoghue, Waterford's director of overseas sales, is taking responsibility for the US operations until a replacement is found.

The resignation comes as Waterford Crystal's 2,300 Irish workers began the second day of an all-out strike over management cost-cutting measures. Mr Paddy Galvin, chief executive of Waterford Crystal, has threatened to transfer crystal production to Czechoslovakia or East Germany if workers do not co-operate to reduce costs.

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How the language of capitalism baffled Hungarians

Confusion as East meets West

By Colin Nantworth

HALF of a state-owned Hungarian hotel chain, HungarHotels, was sold to a Swedish buyer at a bargain price because Budapest officials and their Western accountants did not know they were speaking different languages.

A valuation of the hotel group's assets, commissioned by two government departments from Ernst & Young, the British business services and accountancy group, was misunderstood as the proper price at which to sell the firm.

Quintus, a Swedish hotel group, clinched the HungarHotels joint venture deal last December, taking a 50 per cent stake for £35 million, half the £110 million figure Ernst & Young's Hungarian auditing firm had set for the chain's

net asset value. The valuation had deliberately not taken account such familiar market concepts as goodwill and business potential, which can be worth two to three times the value of the assets.

The deal was criticised in the Hungarian media, and it was suggested the Swedes planned a quick sell-on.

The outcry prompted the government, which has otherwise strongly favoured privatization, into legal action that has now reversed the sale of the 100-hotels chain. The Swedes, instead of pocketing a bargain, are merely receiving their money back.

A spokesman for Ernst & Young in London said its Hungarian firm, Ernst & Young Bonitas, had made the asset valuation for the finance and commerce ministries in Budapest without under-

standing the purpose. The valuation, which gave a gross figure of £180 million, sought only to estimate the replacement cost to meet the requirements of Hungary's asset-transformation legislation.

"But the Hungarian officials appear to have thought that they had been given a price at which it could be sold off," the spokesman said.

The Ernst & Young team was separately hired to conduct a business valuation that showed earnings were unimpressive, reflecting the poor location of some hotels, low occupancy levels and high inflation.

And what happens now? The government plans to re-nationalize the company with the intention of floating half of it on the stock market.

Portfolio

PLATINUM

Account closes quietly

Portfolio

PLATINUM

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

Prices recorded are at 4 pm. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks.

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

271	134	Soft Water	136	140	-4	15.0	10.9
232	152	South West	160	159	+5	17.4	11.4
197	128	Tamiami Water	147	159	+12	16.0	11.4
192	148	West	169	171	-2	24.4	13.2
189	148	Western Water	144	149	-4	20.3	13.9
106	167	Yorkshire Water	182	185	-3	20.6	22.2
E1755 E1000 Package Unit			E1459	..	-238

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend c Dividend payment d Price at suspension of dividend e Dividend yield exclude a special dividend f Pre-merger firm g Forecast earnings h Ex other E&T rights i Ex stock share split j Taxfree .. No significant change

190%	149	Angken Water	147	130	-6	20.4	13.7
180	156	Northwestern	155	160	5	21.4	13.5
172	148	North West	149	151	2	21.0	14.0
169	150	Severn Trust	128	130	-2	19.5	15.3
171	134	Sahn Water	136	140	4	15.0	10.8
202	152	South West	160	152	-8	17.4	11.4
171	138	Thames Water	127	139	12	16.4	14.1
196	155	Wessex Water	168	171	3	22.4	12.7

● Ex dividend a Ex alt b Forecast dividend e k
payment passed f Price st suspension g Dividend
yield exclude a special payment h Pre-merger fig
Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex ex
share t u Tax-free v w x y z Not significant data

The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

1950	High	Low	Company	Div ¹	Yld ²	Other	Share	Open	Close	Vol	P/E
21	100	100	General Electric	1.00	4.00	100	100	100	100	100	100
22	100	100	General Motors	1.00	4.00	100	100	100	100	100	100
23	100	100	IBM	1.00	4.00	100	100	100	100	100	100
24	100	100	Johnson & Johnson	1.00	4.00	100	100	100	100	100	100
25	100	100	McDonald's	1.00	4.00	100	100	100	100	100	100
26	100	100	Merck & Co.	1.00	4.00	100	100	100	100	100	100
27	100	100	Procter & Gamble	1.00	4.00	100	100	100	100	100	100
28	100	100	Walmart	1.00	4.00	100	100	100	100	100	100
29	100	100	Exxon	1.00	4.00	100	100	100	100	100	100
30	100	100	Boeing	1.00	4.00	100	100	100	100	100	100
31	100	100	United Fruit	1.00	4.00	100	100	100	100	100	100
32	100	100	Amstar	1.00	4.00	100	100	100	100	100	100
33	100	100	Eastman Chemical	1.00	4.00	100	100	100	100	100	100
34	100	100	Eastman Kodak	1.00	4.00	100	100	100	100	100	100
35	100	100	Eastman Organic	1.00	4.00	100	100	100	100	100	100
36	100	100	Eastman Pharmaceutical	1.00	4.00	100	100	100	100	100	100
37	100	100	Eastman Textile	1.00	4.00	100	100	100	100	100	100
38	100	100	Eastman Chemical	1.00	4.00	100	100	100	100	100	100
39	100	100	Eastman Chemical	1.00	4.00	100	100	100	100	100	100
40	100	100	Eastman Chemical	1.00	4.00	100	100	100	100	100	100
41	100	100	Eastman Chemical	1.00	4.00	100	100	100	100	100	100
42	100	100	Eastman Chemical	1.00	4.00	100	100	100	100	100	100
43	100	100	Eastman Chemical	1.00	4.00	100	100	100	100	100	100
44	100	100	Eastman Chemical	1.00	4.00	100	100	100	100	100	100
45	100	100	Eastman Chemical	1.00	4.00	100	100	100	100	100	100
46	100	100	Eastman Chemical	1.00	4.00	100	100	100	100	100	100
47	100	100	Eastman Chemical	1.00	4.00	100	100	100	100	100	100
48	100	100	Eastman Chemical	1.00	4.00	100	100	100	100	100	100
49	100	100	Eastman Chemical	1.00	4.00	100	100	100	100	100	100
50	100	100	Eastman Chemical	1.00	4.00	100	100	100	100	100	100

1 Ex dividend a Ex b/c Forecast dividend d Interim
 payment percent f Price an underwritten g Dividend an
 yield excludes a special payment h Pre-merger figures i
 Forecast earnings o Ex other v Ex rights a Ex scrip or
 share split x Tail-note .. No significant data.

THIRD MARKET

DOLLAR SPOT RATES					
Ireland	1.5785-1.5780	Denmark	6.4735-6.4785	Italy	1246.0-1947.0
Singapore	1.6740-1.6750	W Germany	1.6890-1.6887	Belgium (Com)	35.05-35.06
Malaysia	2.7265-2.7295	Switzerland	1.4875-1.4895	Hong Kong	7.8000-7.8010
Australia	1.3029-1.3046	Netherlands	1.9080-1.9100	Portugal	149.65-149.75
Canada	1.1839-1.1849	France	5.7000-5.7050	Spain	167.70-167.80
Sweden	6.1260-6.1400	Japan	157.65-157.70	Austria	11.90-11.91

LOW END FINANCIAL FUTURES					
	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
FT-SE 100					
Jan 90	2278.0	2279.0	2274.0	2275.0	1763
Feb 90	2278.0	2279.0	2274.0	2275.0	0
Three Month					
Jan 90	1429.0	1430.0	1424.0	1425.0	1452
Feb 90	1429.0	1430.0	1424.0	1425.0	0
Three Month					
Jan 90	1429.0	1430.0	1424.0	1425.0	1452
Feb 90	1429.0	1430.0	1424.0	1425.0	0
Three Month					
Jan 90	1429.0	1430.0	1424.0	1425.0	1452
Feb 90	1429.0	1430.0	1424.0	1425.0	0
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Jan 90	1429.0	1430.0	1424.0	1425.0	1452
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Feb 90	1429.0	1430.0	1424.0	1425.0	0
Three Month					
Jan 90	1429.0	1430.0	1424.0	1425.0	1452
Feb 90	1429.0	1430.0	1424.0	1425.0	0
Three Month					
Jan 90	1429.0	1430.0			

LONDON FOX		LONDON METAL EXCHANGE			
Official prices/advance previous day		Official prices/advance previous day		Rundell Watt	
(2/tonnes)		Cash		3-month	
Buy		Sell		Buy	
COGSA	AMT Futures	COGSA	AMT Futures	COGSA	AMT Futures
May 881-320	May 805-400	May 811-320	May 805-400	May 811-320	May 805-400
Jul 848-547	Jul 848-547	Jul 848-547	Jul 848-547	Jul 848-547	Jul 848-547
Sep 865-584	Sep 865-584	Sep 865-584	Sep 865-584	Sep 865-584	Sep 865-584
COFFEE	AMT Futures	COFFEE	AMT Futures	COFFEE	AMT Futures
May 898-590	May 898-590	May 898-590	May 898-590	May 898-590	May 898-590
Jul 908-597	Jul 908-597	Jul 908-597	Jul 908-597	Jul 908-597	Jul 908-597
Sep 928-606	Sep 928-606	Sep 928-606	Sep 928-606	Sep 928-606	Sep 928-606
Nov 910-705	Nov 910-705	Nov 910-705	Nov 910-705	Nov 910-705	Nov 910-705
LONDON GRAIN FUTURES		LONDON MEAT FUTURES (pigs)		MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION	
Live Pig (cwt)		Live Pig (cwt)		Average livestock prices at representative markets on April 6	
May 115.35	May 115.35	May 115.35	May 115.35	May 115.35	May 115.35
Jul 116.00	Jul 116.00	Jul 116.00	Jul 116.00	Jul 116.00	Jul 116.00
Sep 116.50	Sep 116.50	Sep 116.50	Sep 116.50	Sep 116.50	Sep 116.50
Nov 117.00	Nov 117.00	Nov 117.00	Nov 117.00	Nov 117.00	Nov 117.00
Dec 117.50	Dec 117.50	Dec 117.50	Dec 117.50	Dec 117.50	Dec 117.50
Jan 118.00	Jan 118.00	Jan 118.00	Jan 118.00	Jan 118.00	Jan 118.00
Feb 118.50	Feb 118.50	Feb 118.50	Feb 118.50	Feb 118.50	Feb 118.50
Mar 119.00	Mar 119.00	Mar 119.00	Mar 119.00	Mar 119.00	Mar 119.00
Apr 119.50	Apr 119.50	Apr 119.50	Apr 119.50	Apr 119.50	Apr 119.50
May 120.00	May 120.00	May 120.00	May 120.00	May 120.00	May 120.00
Jun 120.50	Jun 120.50	Jun 120.50	Jun 120.50	Jun 120.50	Jun 120.50
Jul 121.00	Jul 121.00	Jul 121.00	Jul 121.00	Jul 121.00	Jul 121.00
Aug 121.50	Aug 121.50	Aug 121.50	Aug 121.50	Aug 121.50	Aug 121.50
Sep 122.00	Sep 122.00	Sep 122.00	Sep 122.00	Sep 122.00	Sep 122.00
Oct 122.50	Oct 122.50	Oct 122.50	Oct 122.50	Oct 122.50	Oct 122.50
Nov 123.00	Nov 123.00	Nov 123.00	Nov 123.00	Nov 123.00	Nov 123.00
Dec 123.50	Dec 123.50	Dec 123.50	Dec 123.50	Dec 123.50	Dec 123.50
Jan 124.00	Jan 124.00	Jan 124.00	Jan 124.00	Jan 124.00	Jan 124.00
Feb 124.50	Feb 124.50	Feb 124.50	Feb 124.50	Feb 124.50	Feb 124.50
Mar 125.00	Mar 125.00	Mar 125.00	Mar 125.00	Mar 125.00	Mar 125.00
Apr 125.50	Apr 125.50	Apr 125.50	Apr 125.50	Apr 125.50	Apr 125.50
May 126.00	May 126.00	May 126.00	May 126.00	May 126.00	May 126.00
Jun 126.50	Jun 126.50	Jun 126.50	Jun 126.50	Jun 126.50	Jun 126.50
Jul 127.00	Jul 127.00	Jul 127.00	Jul 127.00	Jul 127.00	Jul 127.00
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Jan 130.00	Jan 130.00	Jan 130.00	Jan 130.00	Jan 130.00	Jan 130.00
Feb 130.50	Feb 130.50	Feb 130.50	Feb 130.50	Feb 130.50	Feb 130.50
Mar 131.00	Mar 131.00	Mar 131.00	Mar 131.00	Mar 131.00	Mar 131.00
Apr 131.50	Apr 131.50	Apr 131.50	Apr 131.50	Apr 131.50	Apr 131.50
May 132.00	May 132.00	May			

THIRD MARKET

1914年11月11日
 星期一
 第1111号
 本報地址：上海南京路
 電話：1111
 廣告部：上海南京路
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 印刷部：上海南京路
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[illegible]

Secrets saved

About 7.5 million tax returns are in the post. For the last time, married men will be expected to fill in details of their wives' earnings and savings. Those wives who have not revealed the full extent of their investments need no longer fear that the Inland Revenue will insist on a showdown. **Page 24**

Debit dilemma

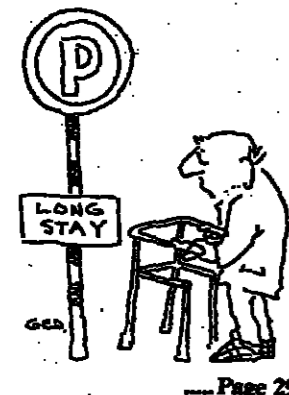
Retailers are signing up customers to make regular payments straight from their credit cards. But few customers realize they will not be able to stop the payments. This is something that only retailers can do, and they may not be inclined to in the event of a dispute. **Page 25**

Low-start costs

High interest rates are forcing a high proportion of homebuyers to opt for low-start mortgage schemes, but the additional costs can be very high in the longer term because of some of the assumptions made by the lenders. **Page 27**

Merger bonuses

Disputed mergers and possible takeovers of building societies could bring bigger and better bonuses to investors. **Page 28**



Flood of investment offers greets independence

By Jon Ashworth

THE arrival of independent taxation yesterday was greeted with a flood of new investment products designed to enable married women to use their personal tax allowances in 1990-1991. Prudential Holborn is to launch a unit trust with an expected gross yield of 15.52 per cent, one of the highest available, on April 17. The Cash Haven Trust will appeal to non-taxpayers, including 5 million housewives, because they can claim back any tax deducted.

Income can be drawn monthly if at least £10,000 is invested. On deposits of £4,000, income can be drawn quarterly, but on £2,000 or

more, it can only be taken annually or half-yearly. The minimum investment is £1,000. Income can also be reinvested. There is no initial charge, but an annual management charge of 0.5 per cent will be made.

A similar unit trust, with a gross rate of 14.25 per cent, goes on offer from MIM Britannia this weekend. CashBox will invest only in building society high interest accounts, unlike other cash unit trusts, which invest in a range of instruments. Interest is paid at a net rate of 10.68 per cent, leaving non-taxpayers to reclaim the difference. There is an annual charge of 0.5 per cent. The minimum investment is £1,000, and income is paid twice a year. Nation-

wide Anglia has launched a new gross paying account through its Isle of Man subsidiary. The Bradford & Bingley Building Society was the first of many societies to offer gross paying accounts ready for independent taxation.

Nationwide Anglia's Independence account pays a top gross rate of 15.75 per cent on £50,000, with three months' notice. The £5,000 minimum earns 14.25 per cent gross. Savers can also opt for instant access or draw income each month. If the monthly option is taken up, the gross rate on £5,000 falls to 13.25 per cent.

Smaller savers can earn 15 per cent gross on as little as £500 by

putting their money into an investment bond with the Skipton Building Society. The Skipton Major Bond will mature on April 6, 1991, allowing it to pay interest without deducting tax first. The interest rate works out at 11.25 per cent net. The maximum investment of £20,000, earning 15 per cent for a full year, would earn £3,000 in interest - just within the single person's tax allowance of £3,005. Scarborough Building Society's new Chancellor Bond will pay 16.25 per cent gross on £250, provided it is invested for at least a year. Money can be withdrawn at any time, with the loss of 90 days' interest.

Another way to earn interest gross

before April 1991, is to put £50,000 in a time deposit. These are offered by some banks and societies. The investment term on time deposits, which pay between 14.75 per cent and 15.5 per cent, ranges from one month to five years. No withdrawals are allowed during that time.

National Westminster Bank's Treasury Reserve Account requires a minimum deposit of £50,000 to be invested for a fixed period of at least seven days. The rate of interest, linked to money markets, stands at 14.75 per cent on terms of two months to one year.

More than £17 million has been invested in Scottish Amicable's cash unit trust since its February launch.

NatWest aid for holders of Gas

BRITISH Gas investors, numbering 2.6 million, should be able to sell their shares through 270 branches of National Westminster Bank this year and receive a cheque immediately (Lindsay Cook writes).

NatWest stockbrokers are conducting a pilot scheme in the Bristol area, which it expects to extend to all British Gas's ordinary shareholders.

The scheme allows investors to use a NatWest touchscreen for share sales worth up to £10,000 and to receive an instant cheque.

Mr Neil Stapley, managing director of NatWest Stockbrokers, said: "It is likely that when it is extended to all our touchscreens, the cash facility will be on offer for three months."

"It is the ideal solution for people who... do not know how to deal." The minimum fee is £25, and NatWest is also offering a postal dealing service at £12. Mr Stapley added that NatWest was looking at offering cash for other shares through its touchscreens.

It is likely that NatWest will extend the instant cash service to other privatization stocks and to popular shares such as Marks and Spencer and J Sainsbury.

Revenue takes tougher line over late payment of tax

By Lindsay Cook

THE Inland Revenue has launched a tough drive to catch people who do not pay their tax on time. And more bailiffs are being used in an attempt to frighten late payers into settling their bills.

Early-morning and late-night telephone calls are already being made by officials chasing up tax bills, according to the National Audit Office. A pilot scheme operated by 50 staff at the Revenue's accounts office at Shipley, west Yorkshire, is being used to recover unpaid tax, which amounted to £5 billion when last monitored.

The Revenue is may apply to raise the limit for debts from £500 to £1,000.

The "intensive telephoning" takes place out of office

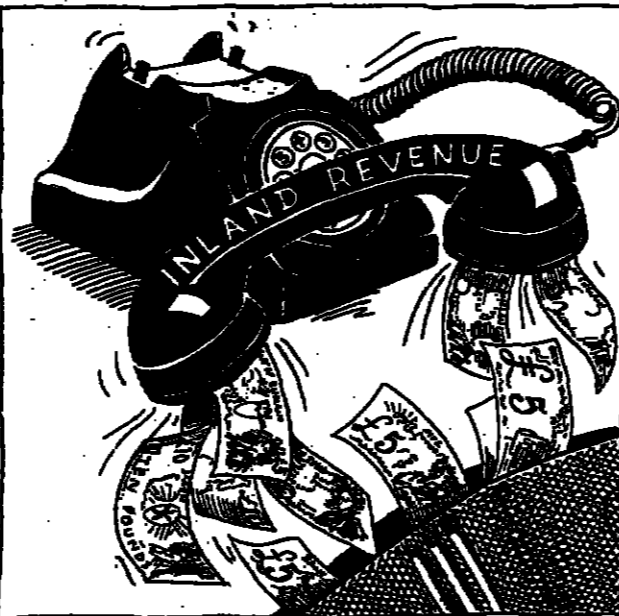
hours to give the tax officials the advantage of taking late payers by surprise. A spokesman said: "We are targeting and getting people who are out at work all day. When we make contact, we ask them why they haven't paid."

The amount owed under Schedule D has increased in recent years due to the 25 per cent rise in the number of self-employed - from 2 million to 2.5 million - and the average 30 per cent increase in earnings over four years.

Up to 400 calls a day are being made to those owing tax, and those with the largest amounts outstanding are likely to be called first.

The Revenue could then make a distraint call, with a bailiff, on the taxpayer to mark items of furniture or office equipment that would be sold to pay the tax bill. Thousands of these calls are being carried out on people who have ignored the three reminders for January 1 tax bills issued to them.

In most cases a levy was not made because the debt was usually paid before the goods were removed for sale. Distraint is an effective method for the Revenue to use to



recover payment. The Revenue has the power to distraint on goods without obtaining a court judgment. It says there may be more scope for using distraint in some regions and is keen for its use to be increased. In the year to October 31, 1988, 231,600 such calls were made and accounted for 79 per cent of all enforcement actions taken in

that year. The previous year, that figure was 25 per cent. Bailiffs are called in most frequently in west London, where 55 per cent of recovery actions involve distraint.

Small debts of up to £500 can be recovered through magistrates courts at the moment, but this limit may be raised to £1,000 as the Revenue is ready to seek the

agreement of the Home Office to double the limit.

The Revenue usually issues three reminders to the self-employed and other taxpayers with debts. The first one goes out two weeks after the tax is due to be paid. The second, which is called a "final demand", goes out three weeks later, and the third, also a "final demand", is sent after another two and a half weeks.

It therefore takes nine to 10 weeks after the bill is due before the debt is sent to a local collection office for enforcement action. All debts of more than £4,500 are given priority treatment, with higher grade officers working on them. Cases involving more than £20,000 have a shorter reminder period of about five weeks, while sums of more than £100,000 are referred to the collection office the day after the due date.

Since July last year, the Revenue has strengthened the wording of the third reminder. But the NAO says that it still has less effect than the first two reminders.

The Revenue says its reminder period is now longer than those used by other national bodies involved in the collection of debts.

Airways counts cost of success

By Our Family Money Staff

AIRWAYS Homes, the star of the Business Expansion Scheme season, was counting the cost of its own success this week. For while more than 4,000 investors have put £20 million into the issue, how they will get their money out in five years' time remains far from clear.

It had been hoped that the Airways Housing Trust, which manages the properties, would be in a position to buy back the shares from investors at a favourable rate at the end of the term. But a director admitted this week that the success of the issues made this a less likely option.

A stock-market listing may now be the only sure way for investors to realize their gains. Mr Simon Tattersfield, chief executive of the Airways Housing Association, which owns the trust, stated it would not be in a position to buy all the investors out.

It had been argued in the prospectuses that the Airways Housing Trust was able to give investors a better price for their shares than if the properties were sold on the open market. They were warned that this was not definite.

Almost £150 million has been raised during 1989-90 under the BES.

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NORWICH UNION

The Norwich Union Life Insurance Society

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of this Society will be held at the Society's Offices, Surrey Street, Norwich on Tuesday 15 May 1990 at 12 noon for the transaction of the following business:-

To receive and consider the Reports of the Directors and Auditors and the Accounts for 1989.

To elect Directors in the place of those retiring.

To appoint Auditors and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.

Dated this 6th day of April 1990. By order of the Board

HW Utting Secretary Surrey Street Norwich

INTEREST RATE ROUND-UP

Nominal rate	Compounded rate	Minimum investment	Notice	Contact
BANKS				
Ordinary Dep A/c Typical	5.00	5.10	4.08	none/none 7 day
Fixed Term Deposits:				
Barclays	10.88	10.88	8.80	25,000-50,000 1 min 01-526 1557
Lloyds	11.81	11.81	8.45	25,000-50,000 8 min 01-526 1557
Midland	10.48	10.48	8.50	2,500-10 max 1 min 025 09151
NatWest	11.24	11.24	8.88	2,500-10 max 6 min 01-728 1000
Other:				
Citibank	10.48	10.48	8.38	10,000-10 max 1 min 01-526 2805
Lloyds TSB	10.73	10.73	8.58	10,000-10 max 6 min 01-526 2805
NatWest	10.63	10.63	8.50	10,000-24,000 1 min 01-728 1000
NatWest	11.00	11.00	8.80	10,000-24,000 8 min 01-728 1000
HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS				
Bank of Scotland	10.84	11.18	8.94	2,500 none 091-442 7777
Barclays	8.50	8.84	7.87	1,500 none 0904 252881
Co-operative	7.10	7.30	5.84	No min none 01 826 6543
Citibank	9.25	9.25	7.40	1,000 none 01 566 2076
Lloyds TSB	7.20	7.00	5.80	500 none 01-526 3358
NatWest	9.50	9.84	7.87	2,000 none
NatWest	9.00	9.31	7.45	500 none 01-574 3374
Royal Bank of Scotland	9.75	10.11	8.08	2,500 none 031-556 8555
Santander	9.00	9.00	7.20	2,000 none 01-500 6000
BUILDING SOCIETIES				
Ordinary Share A/c	6.15	6.15	4.92	1 min none
Best buy - largest socs:				
Barclays	8.88	9.30	7.92	250 min none
NatWest	10.50	10.50	8.40	500 min none
Abbey National	11.30	11.30	9.08	5,000 min 60 day
Bradford & Bingley	11.55	11.55	9.34	10,000 min 1 day
Best buy - all socs:				
Cheltenham & Gloucester	11.50	11.50	9.19	5,000 min none
St Pauls	12.25	12.25	9.70	3,000 min 60 day
Norwich & Peterborough	12.52	12.52	10.01	10,000 min 60 day
Standard	12.70	12.70	10.15	5,000 min 1 min
Cash/Cheque Accounts				
Card Cash	3.75	3.75	3.00	1 min Rates rise
Albion	6.80	6.80	5.52	500 min with larger
NatWest	6.00	6.00	4.80	500 min balances
NATIONAL SAVINGS				
Ordinary A/c	5.00	5.00	3.75	5-10,000 8 day 041-648 4555
Investment A/c	12.75	12.75	7.85	25,000 1 min 041-648 4555
Income Bond	12.50	12.50	7.50	2,000-50,000 1 min 041-648 4555
Deposit Bond	12.50	12.50	7.50	3 min 041-648 4555
3 1/2% Index Cert	7.50	7.50	7.50	25-1,000 8 day 091-586 4900
Yearly Plan	7.50	7.50	7.50	20-200 min 14 day 091-586 4900
General	5.01	5.01	5.01	100-10 max 5 yrs 041-648 4555
Capital Bond	12.00	12.00	9.02	7.25
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS				
Accum	13.00	13.00	11.05	20,000 min 1 yrs Figures from
New Direction Fin	12.10	12.10	10.28	5,000 min 2 yrs Chase de
Liberty Life	12.00	12.00	10.20	10,000 min 3 yrs Vore call
General Portfolio	11.50	11.50	9.77	1,000 min 4 yrs 01 404 5765
Providence Capital	11.50	11.50	9.77	10,000 min 5 yrs for details
Holiday rates				
RPI (February 88-89)	+7.5%			175.75
Bank Rate	15.75%			261.00
Personal Loan	24.5%			261.00
Credit Card	19.5-31%			2620.00

Compiled by KAREN BUCKLEY

LARGER LOANS

Best Buy – all sectors					
Guernsey	11.50	11.50	9.19	5,000 min	no time
Guernsey	11.25	11.25	9.00	3,000 min	30 days
St Pancras	11.25	11.25	9.79	5,000 min	60 days
Monsey & Pater	11.50	11.50	10.07	10,000 min	90 days
Standard	12.70	12.70	10.15	5,000 max	6 mths
Cash/Cheque Accounts:					
Coast					
Card Cash	3.75	3.75	3.00	1 min	Rate rise
Alliance & Lafont	6.90	6.90	5.52	500 min	with larger
Latimer					
Nationwide					
Anglia Flux	6.00	6.00	4.90	500 min	balances
Compiled by Grace de Vries Moneyline – call 011 464 5786 for further details					
NATIONAL SAVINGS					
Ordinary A/c	5.50	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	8 day 041-645-4555
Investment A/c	12.50	9.26	7.85	5-25,000	1 min 041-645-4555
Income Bond*	12.50	9.38	7.50	2,000-25,000	3 mths 0623 69151
Income Plan	12.50	9.38	7.50	101-645-4555	1 min 041-645-4555
24hr Invest Cert†	7.50	7.50	7.50	25-1,000	6 day 091-359-4600
Yearly Plan	7.50	7.50	7.50	20-200	15 day 041-645-4555
General Investment					
Capital Bond	5.01	5.01	5.01	5 years	041-645-4555
Capital Bond	12.00	9.02	7.23	100-no max	5 years 041-645-4555

Figures supplied by City & Country Ltd. Telephone 0933 880422

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	£20,000	£20,000	£222.22	£2,000	£2,242.82	

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Source: Micronal.

...and the fact that the *Journal* is a journal of the American Psychological Association, the largest and most prestigious of the psychological organizations in the United States, is a source of great pride for me.

FAMILY MONEY

Little credit in card debits

By Tony Hetherington

Direct debits are an administrative dream for many companies which regularly have to collect fees or subscriptions from the public. The signed authority given by the customer gives access to his or her bank account and the company can take whatever amount is due. No cheque is needed, and no time is wasted with invoices or receipts.

Many companies are now taking the system a stage further, and operating direct debits against credit-card accounts. Customers who are reluctant to sign a direct debit agreement based on their bank account might be less reluctant to have their credit card debited.

This can, however, turn sour for customers who want to cancel a credit-card direct debit. One significant difference between direct debits from a bank account and those from a credit card is that customers have effectively surrendered the right to stop payments. Only the retailer in whose favour the direct debit was granted, can actually terminate it.

Mr Tony Firshman, a computer consultant from west London, rented a computer mailbox from Microlink Communications Limited. He paid the monthly rental

through a direct debit agreement under which Microlink took the fee from his Barclaycard account.

Last November, Mr Firshman decided to cancel using the mailbox, and wrote to Barclaycard and Microlink.

Barclaycard replied: "We regret we are unable to cancel your direct debit with Microlink Communications Limited. Once you have agreed with a merchant that they may charge your Barclaycard account at regular intervals for transactions or services, we have to accept the charges to your account."

Mr Firshman was amazed that he could not put a stop to payments from his own credit card, which is operated by Barclays Bank, whereas if the direct debit had been from a Barclays Bank account, he could cancel it easily.

He said: "It is ludicrous. The bank's system is the other way around, as it should be. I am not at all concerned for the money. It is just that I, along with 90 per cent of the population, would not be aware that this could happen."

It should be written into the rules that a cardholder can cancel a direct debit by contacting the card company.

"Microlink is a respectable organization, but crooks could



Tony Firshman: Barclaycard debits were unstoppable make a big killing and debit on March 5, and we are charging it back to them."

A Barclaycard spokeswoman confirmed that a direct debit puts all the power into the hands of the retailer, but added that the company's prime concern was for the cardholder.

She said: "We believe Mr Firshman when he says he has asked Microlink to cancel the agreement, and as he received no response, we have taken things into our own hands. The company put through a

accepted by the card company. In the event of a problem, the bank would act as intermediary."

Lloyds Bank also said it would referee disputes between cardholders and retailers, but confirmed that, like Barclaycard, its cardholders did not have the right to cancel a direct debit.

Midland, however, said it would intervene on a cardholder's behalf to stop an unwanted payment.

A spokesman said: "If the customer said he did not want to pay any further debits, the card company would debit the retailer, who should not then charge the account again. We can do this on a one-off basis, but to stop the thing permanently, the customer must go to the retailer."

Meanwhile, Mr Firshman's problems seem to be over. Mr Derek Meakin, chairman of Microlink Communications, said his company had no trace of the requests Mr Firshman made last year to cancel his mailbox and the related direct debits.

He added that he did not realize that Microlink had the power to carry on collecting rent even after Mr Firshman had asked Barclaycard to stop payments.

Microlink cancelled Mr Firshman's mailbox as from last Saturday.

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BRIEFINGS

■ Lloyds Bank launches its latest personal equity plan this weekend to enable investors to take advantage of the new £5,000 limit in these tax-free plans. The Lloyds pep can now be invested in 100 British blue-chip companies instead of 30, and there is a special dealing rate of 0.2 per cent. Two additional unit trusts, UK Equity Income and UK Equity Growth, can be linked to the managed plan. It costs £20 to join, and there is an annual management fee of 0.25 per cent. The minimum lump sum is £300 initially and £100 thereafter. Regular savings start at £25 a month.

■ Three peps from Prudential Holborn include a managed scheme investing in between five and 15 UK shares. A unit trust version can be linked to five Holborn trusts, and the Holborn Balanced pep allows a combination of each. Regular income is an option

on plans worth £10,000 or more. The initial charge for each pep is 6 per cent and the annual management charge is 1.5 per cent. Minimum investment is £1,000.

■ A new pep package from Scottish Widows gives a choice of one-off payments starting at £1,200, and monthly savings starting at £100. The first £3,000 invested will be linked to a Widows unit trust, while the remainder will be invested in British shares. Charges on the unit trust portion are 6 per cent initially and 1.25 per cent annually.

■ Investors in Smith & Nephew, the health-care group, can buy shares through a tailor-made pep free of dealing costs. The Smith & Nephew pep will accept lump sums of £240, or monthly savings of £20 - free of charges in the first year. From then on, the annual management charge is 0.5 per cent.

■ Town & Country has launched a savings account paying 12.5 per cent interest after tax. CLASSIC II has a monthly income option paying 12.35 per cent net on £10,000. Interest on the account, a limited issue, is guaranteed to be at least 5 per cent above the variable basic share rate until March 1991.

■ Bank of Scotland has introduced an account for expatriates giving a choice of high interest and a regular monthly income. The Premier Investment Account pays a top gross rate of 14.25 per cent on £25,000, or 15.22 per cent compounded over one year. Interest can be paid automatically into overseas accounts each month, free of overseas bank charges.

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1990/91

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THE M&G PEP

FAMILY MONEY

When bonds that tie bring timely benefits

By Margaret Dibben

GUARANTEED income bonds are paying the highest rates of interest for more than a decade. However, while several insurance companies have raised their rates four times this year, those rates may have peaked.

With guaranteed income bonds, investors can lock into these high rates for fixed periods of up to 10 years. However, one- to five-year bonds are more popular, particularly with older people who want to know exactly what their income will be for the next few years.

The problem is deciding how long to commit your money for, because the longer period bonds pay a lower rate of interest than one-year bonds. This makes one-year bonds appear more attractive, but it does not necessarily make them the best buy.

Mr Brian Watson, marketing director of Providence Capital, said: "We offer 12.25 per cent net over a one-year term, and 11.5 per cent over five years. Investors have to make a judgement about interest rates. If you think they are going to be as high in a year's time as they are now, you are probably better with the one-year because you can reinvest your money in a year's time at an equally high rate. But if you think that interest rates are on the way down in the next 12 or 18 months, you are better off locking into the longer term."

Mr John Housden, technical director of Hill Samuel Investment Services believes that longer term bonds are better at the moment because investors can lock into historically high interest rates for four or five years. Hill Samuel has raised the rate on its five-year bond to 11.2 per cent.



Chase de Vere has issued a one-year bond paying 13 per cent net for a minimum investment of £10,000. However, Mr Robin Bloor, an associate director, urges investors to look to the longer term.

Providence Capital is paying the highest rate over five years at 11.5 per cent for sums of more than £10,000.

One drawback to guaranteed bonds is that the money is tied up for the full period because they are linked to life assurance policies.

When the bond matures, investors have to decide about reinvesting the money. They can have a cheque, reinvest in the latest guaranteed bond, or put the money into another product with the company.

Some smaller insurance companies can be slow in

returning the money. If the payment is delayed, you should ask the insurance company to pay interest from the maturity date. Failing that, you can complain to the insurance companies watchdog, the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation. Investments are covered by the Policyholders Protection Act.

Guaranteed income bonds will face new competition for taxpayers' money from Tax Exempt Special Savings Accounts, which banks and building societies will sell from January 1991. Money invested in a Tessa will be tied up for five years but, unlike guaranteed income bonds, the rate of interest is unlikely to be fixed for that length of time.

Guaranteed income bonds are less attractive to non-taxpayers because, for the majority, you cannot reclaim the tax deducted.

Bonds deduct basic rate tax from the interest and the capital when it is repaid. There is no additional liability to basic rate tax, although higher rate taxpayers will have to pay the extra 15 per cent.

Usually tax on five per cent of the income is deducted each year to the end of the bond which can be an advantage for people whose income is expected to fall before during the lifetime of the bond.

But older people receiving the age allowance need to be particularly careful. Cashing in the bond on maturity could boost their income above the threshold and result in the age allowance being reduced.

Inertia relieves failed publicity

BANKS and building societies appear to have thrown away the money they have spent publicising the independent taxation system introduced yesterday, according to a MORI survey commissioned by Scottish Amicable (Barbara Ellis writes).

But the banks and societies are likely to benefit from customer inertia in the face of the change.

More than eight out of 10 couples with an income in excess of £20,000 told MORI they were aware of the changes in the taxation of married couples. How-

ever, most said they learned of the new system either from newspapers or television. None recalled any information from banks or societies.

While six in 10 recognized that married women will be assessed and taxed separately, only one in eight knew that the wife would have a separate allowance and only one in 20 realized that a husband would be able to transfer investments to his wife to reduce tax.

Inertia showed through in reactions both to independent taxation and the unclaimable composite rate tax de-

ducted from bank and building society accounts which is to be abolished next April.

Only nine per cent of people interviewed had taken action to minimize their tax, although this rose to 14 per cent among couples with one partner paying tax at 40 per cent.

But while nearly every interviewee holding bank or building society accounts knew that their interest was being paid net of CRT, only four in 10 had thought of moving their savings to a more tax efficient method of saving.

CHANCELLOR

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16.25% p.a.

GROSS

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Furthermore, you are also free to make one instant withdrawal (or close the account) during the term, although this will mean losing 90 days interest on the sum you withdraw, with the annual rate dropping to 15.59% gross (net equivalent 11.69%*).

So if you want to put your personal allowance to work please complete the application form and send it together with your cheque to Scarborough Building Society, FREEPOST, Investments Direct, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, YO12 6BR.

Incidentally, you will also find this Bond of great interest if you are a non-taxpayer of any kind. Simply clip the coupon and we'll send you further details.

Scarborough BUILDING SOCIETY

*Assuming Basic Rate Income Tax at 25% remains unchanged.

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FAMILY MONEY

Low-start to a costly finish

By Mike Goodman

HIGH interest rates have forced as many as one in four borrowers to opt for low-start mortgages, which put off payments for up to five years. But a string of charges can make the schemes look anything but a good buy.

Such deferred interest mortgages have appealed to existing homeowners, who find the prospect of cutting their mortgage payments by as much as 40 per cent irresistible.

But there are some "upfront" costs which borrowers should look at carefully. These include arrangement, valuation and solicitors fees which can run into hundreds of pounds. There is also the mortgage indemnity premium which insures the lender

against the borrower defaulting. It typically applies to loans of more than 75 per cent of a property's value, and can add up to £1,000 to the cost.

If a £60,000 mortgage was taken out on a property valued at £68,000, the loan/value ratio would be 88.2 per cent. An indemnity premium would have to be paid on the difference between 75 per cent and 88.2 per cent, amounting to £9,000. Taking a premium rate of 3.5 per cent per £1,000, the premium payable would be £315.

But on low-start deferred interest loans, the premium would be substantially higher. This is because the deferred interest is to be added on to the original loan and interest rates are assumed to stay at the same high level. The chances are that interest rates will

fall, so the amount of deferred interest will not be as great as expected. But insurers and lenders take the "worst-case scenario", adding to the cost into the bargain.

On an Abbey National loan with a three-year low-start period, the amount outstanding on a £60,000 loan is assumed to have increased to £63,240 by the end of the deferred interest period.

This means that on a property valued at £68,000, the maximum loan/value ratio is assumed to be 93 per cent, not 88 per cent.

The indemnity premium is worked out on £12,324, not £9,000. And as the maximum loan to value exceeds 90 per cent, it falls into a higher 4.5 per cent charge band, and the premium

would cost £553. The deeper the initial "discount" on the standard mortgage rate, the more the deferred interest is assumed to add to the initial loan.

On a Citibank mortgage, where the rate is discounted 5 per cent in the first year, the outstanding loan balance is assumed to "peak" at 130 per cent of the original loan, and it is not uncommon for the indemnity premium on a £60,000 loan to exceed £1,000.

Instead of charging an indemnity premium, on its low start mortgage, the Nationwide Anglia adds 0.75 per cent to the mortgage rate for the first year. On a £60,000 loan, this would put the full year's cost of the additional interest at £450.

Family wins shock therapy

By Lindsay Cook

A FAMILY has won £4,000 in compensation from its local council after suffering electric shocks when crossing the road. Camden Council paid the money to the family of husband, wife, two young daughters and a dog which made the claim through Legal Protection Group, its legal expenses insurer. The council had originally offered £1,000.

The family members were walking home from a shopping trip in North London and stopped at a traffic island when crossing the road.

Both daughters received electric shocks through their shoes and felt "tingling" in their hands. The father touched the ground and suffered a shock to his arm.

Meanwhile, the dog was writhing in pain on the ground and bit the mother on her hand as she tried to comfort it.

After the incident, the police cordoned off the traffic island, which was found to be "live". It was discovered that rain water had seeped into the ground and come into contact



with a damaged electric main. Damages were sought "for anxiety and distress", as well as a small sum for cleaning bills and fares for taxis taken to ferry the dog to the vet.

Mr James Painter, assistant managing manager at LPG, part of the Sun Alliance group, said: "The vet diagnosed the dog as having undergone a personality change resulting in nervousness."

The family was covered by an LPG policy. In a telephone

call to LawCall, the group's 24-hour advisory service, a solicitor suggested that the family should seek compensation from the local authority.

The father wrote to the local council concerned, explaining the circumstances and asking for compensation. He rejected the £1,000 that was offered to him initially.

He was then authorized to appoint a solicitor and pursue the claim under his Family Legal Benefits Insurance.

After consulting counsel, the solicitor issued a statement of claim for £5,000 and the council offered £4,000 plus a costs in full settlement.

The policy, which the family holds, costs £80 a year. It covers all members for up to £5,000 worth of legal costs per claim. In addition, it offers "all risks" cover, including employment disputes, personal injury claims, consumer and residential disputes. However, it excludes claims arising from business activities.

Such policies, which allow people to take legal action without risking heavy costs, have grown in popularity in recent years.

The Bradford & Bingley Building Society offers legal expenses insurance through Allianz Legal Protection from £3.50 a month, rising to £5. There are estimated to be between 100,000 and 200,000 families covered by stand-alone legal expenses policies.

Household and motoring policies also offer limited forms of cover as an addition from as little as £7 a year.

Trust aims for 13% dividend

AN INVESTMENT trust expecting to pay a gross dividend of 13 per cent in its first year is launched today by Greig Middleton, the broker, and Bell Lawrie, its co-sponsor (Lindsay Cook writes).

The Dartmoor Investment Trust will be managed by Ian Henderson Associates, the Exeter-based investment house.

The new fund has 20 million ordinary shares on offer at £1 and has completely replaced with pension funds and insurance companies the £16 million of debenture stock, offering a return of 6 per cent above the annual increase in the retail prices index.

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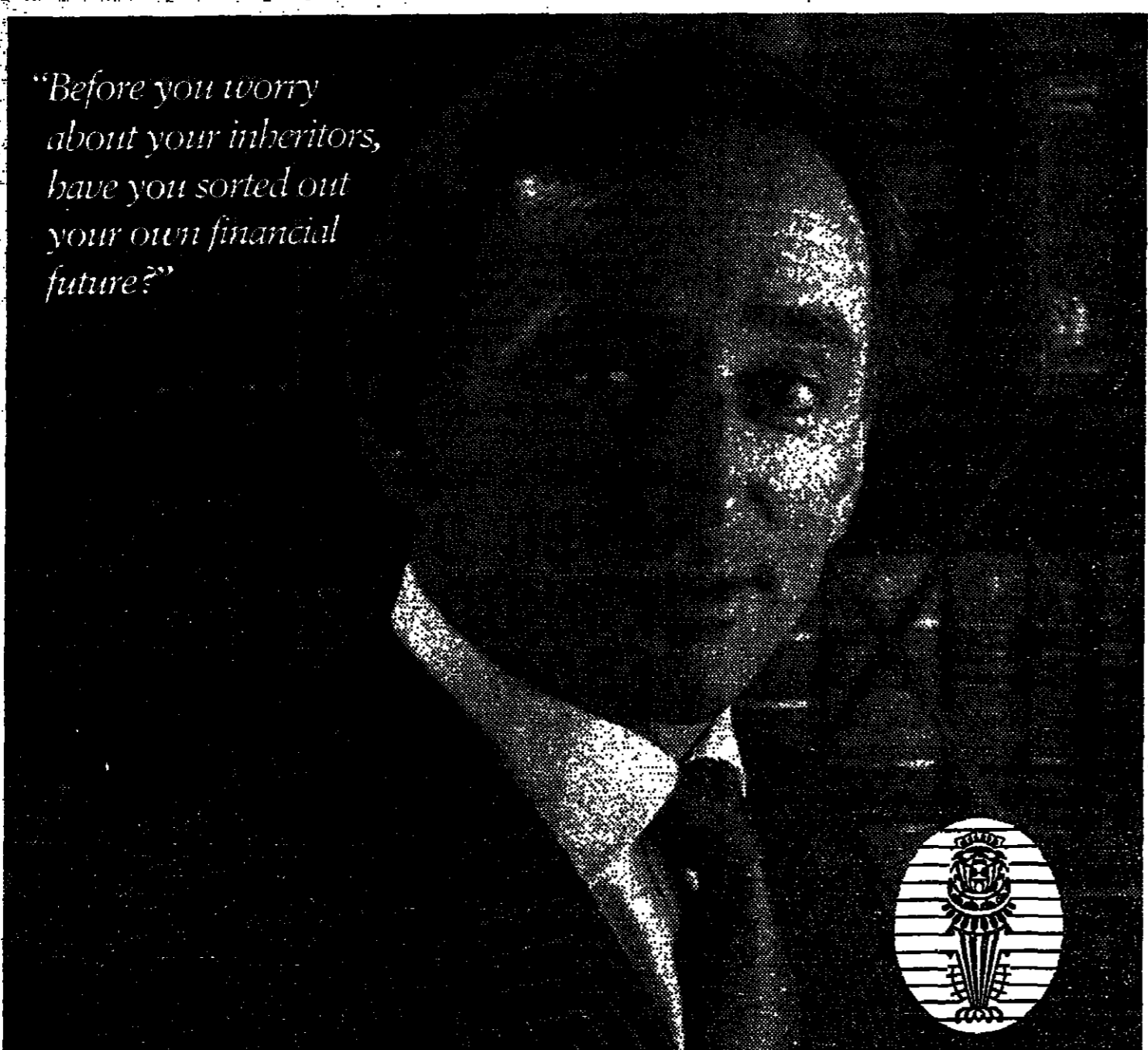
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Portfolio

PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 21).

To the Times that the 1st of the 1st

1	+4	+1	+9	+2	+8
2	+7	+2	+5	+2	+4
3	+8	+1	+4	+4	+5
4	+8	+2	+8	+2	+7
5	+5	+1	+6	+3	+4
6	+6	+3	+3	+1	+5
7	+8	+4	+5	+3	+3
8	+5	+1	+8	+1	+8
9	+7	+1	+4	+3	+5
10	+8	+3	+3	+6	+4
11	+7	+3	+3	+4	+2
12	+5	+2	+5	+2	+5
13	+6	+3	+4	+5	+2
14	+7	+2	+5	+3	+4
15	+5	+2	+8	+2	+7
16	+7	+1	+5	+3	+3
17	+8	+1	+7	+1	+7
18	+7	+1	+4	+4	+3
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26	+5	+1	+5	+2	+3
27	+8	+3	+4	+4	+4
28	+7	+1	+3	+2	+6
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32	+8	+1	+3	+1	+4
33	+6	+3	+3	+5	+3
34	+4	+1	+6	+1	+8
35	+5	+1	+6	+3	+7
36	+7	+4	+4	+3	+3
37	+5	+2	+3	+2	+6
38	+8	+5	+3	+3	+2
39	+7	+1	+6	+3	+4
40	+7	+3	+3	+4	+2
41	+5	+1	+7	+2	+8
42	+8	+1	+5	+4	+3
43	+7	+6	+5	+4	+3
44	+5	+3	+5	+3	+5

Picking winners in the society takeover stakes

By Lindsay Cook

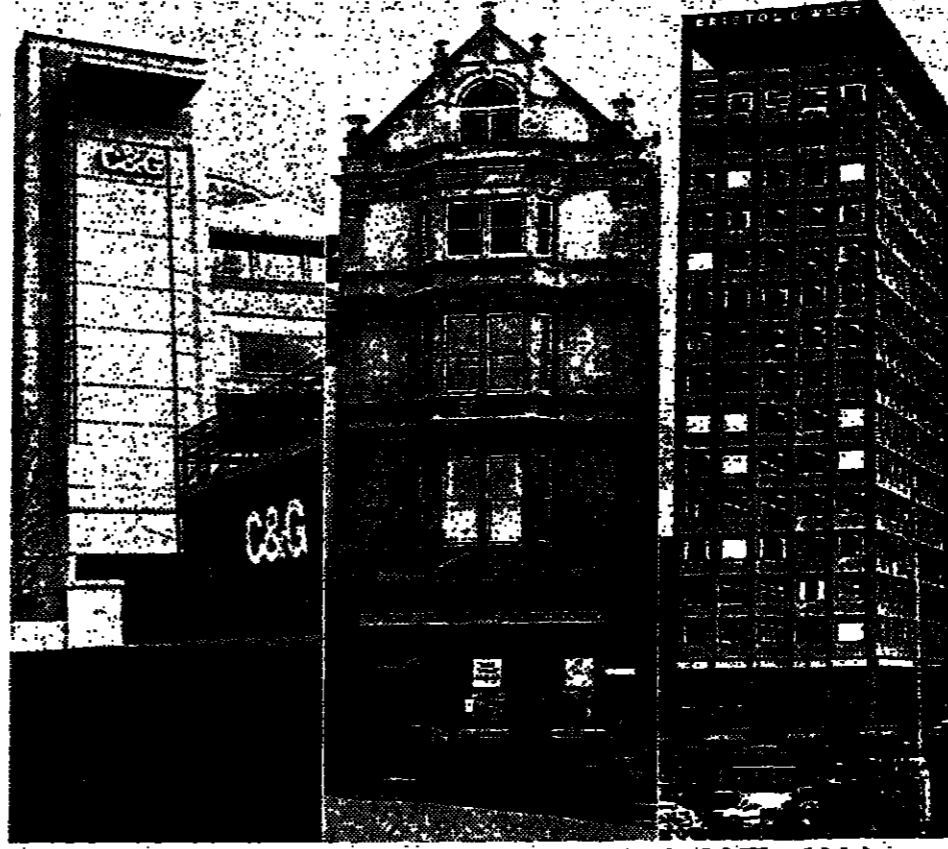
INVESTORS and borrowers seeking windfall gains when building societies are taken over were given a new set of considerations by the Bristol & West Building Society this week when it announced that it was tying to Eagle Star, the insurer, and receiving a cash injection of £50 million.

The arrangement with Eagle Star, part of BAT Industries, gives the tenth-largest society the opportunity to broaden its range of products and expand its regional network in the prosperous South-west, where property prices have not suffered to the same extent as those in London and the South-east.

Its main rival in the region is the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society, which has not yet given up hope of winning the Frome Selwood Building Society with an offer which exceeds terms from a rival.

When members of the Frome Selwood receive voting papers on the proposed merger with the Stroud & Swindon Building Society on April 23, details of the C & G offer will be included. This will make it the first contested building society merger, with members being offered by the C & G substantially more than the Stroud & Swindon's two per cent bonus.

Members will not be able to vote for the C & G offer as an alternative. They must vote for or against the offer being recommended by their society's board: a merger with the Stroud & Swindon. To have any chance of persuading the Frome members to forego the



High-rising bonuses: C&G (left), Frome Selwood, and Bristol & West (right)

almost immediate payout from the Stroud & Swindon, the C & G has to be making a much better offer and to be able to get the information across to members.

It is possible that members attending the meeting could put pressure on directors to put the C & G offer to the membership.

The C & G is keen to expand its branch network this year by about 10 branches, and the Frome

society converted itself into a public company last summer, savers who had more than £100 in their accounts received 100 free shares and the opportunity to buy others at less than the market value. Any takeover is likely to have a higher threshold and to offer a proportionate return, so that the investor with £10,000 automatically will receive more than one with £1,000.

"The pace has heated up dramatically this year, with a number of mergers already announced," said Mr Egerton.

"If a saver could identify the targets of the Bristol & West and Cheltenham & Gloucester, he could do rather well."

"The medium-sized societies will also be under pressure from the expensive Bristol & West and may decide to opt for a similar arrangement, which could lead to a takeover."

Smaller societies are also under pressure because of the new capital adequacy requirements for societies published by the Building Societies Commission last week.

However, those societies forced to look for a partner are unlikely to produce large bonuses. For example, members of the Peckham are being offered 0.75 per cent.

The Portman Wessex and Regency West of England building societies do not appear to be certain that they will get a majority for their merger, which would give bonuses of up to £100 an account. The societies have placed advertisements in national newspapers reminding members to vote.

The National & Provincial was considered a front-runner for conversion on its own, but now it looks as if the society might seek a partner.

The 33-branch Norwich and Peterborough is an innovative society, which has become quiet and is rumored to be in talks with another organization. The Birmingham Midshires, which recently lost its chief executive, and the Leamington Spa are regarded by analysts as takeover targets.

Epsom-based National Counties has the highest reserve asset ratio, at more than 20 per cent. The Mansfield, at 13.7 per cent, and the Penrith, at 10 per cent, could also provide healthy bonuses if they are taken over.

When the Abbey National was taken over, members received a bonus of 100 free shares and the opportunity to buy others at less than the market value.

Mr John Morgan, Imro's chief executive, said the changes would improve the quality of financial reporting and achieve greater consistency in accounting practice.

"The presentation to unit-holders of clear and consistent financial information will be of benefit both to them and the industry as a whole."

Mr Bill Stuttaford, who led the working party which recommended the changes, said there was an obvious desire to keep things as simple as possible. He said the aim was to produce accounts which allowed investors to more readily compare like-for-like and understand what managers were doing with their investments.

Comments are invited on the proposals by May 31.

Imro set to help trust holders

By Jon Ashworth

INVESTORS will find it easier to compare the performance of unit trusts if new proposals on financial reports are adopted this year.

More information to help investors judge fund performance could be a regular feature of unit trust investment from October.

A draft report on recommended changes was published this week by the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation, which regulates banks, pension funds and unit trust managers.

Imro proposes several changes to reports sent out to unit-holders during the year, to make them more comprehensive and enable comparisons to be made more easily.

One important change would see income and expenses shown as percentages as well as in pence per unit. This would make it easier to compare the performance of different funds. Unit-holders would be able to tell what sort of return a fund manager had produced, and then how much of the income had been absorbed by expenses.

A new section on portfolio movements could also be introduced into accounts, to show how actively certain shares have been traded. There would be a breakdown for each company, showing how many shares had been bought and sold. At the moment, it is more usual to show the net increase or decrease in shares held.

A statement of movements in net assets would break down gains and losses and give more detail on the effect of hedging activities. The balance sheet and income account would be more comprehensive. Items not currently disclosed, such as any payable expenses, would be explained more fully.

Mr John Morgan, Imro's chief executive, said the changes would improve the quality of financial reporting and achieve greater consistency in accounting practice.

"The presentation to unit-holders of clear and consistent financial information will be of benefit both to them and the industry as a whole."

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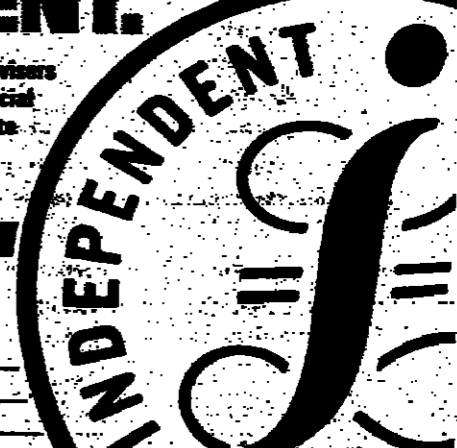
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FAMILY MONEY

Sarah McConnell finds long-stay health cover is very expensive

No comfort for the poor

THE announcement last week by Mr Tony Newton, the Social Security Secretary, that he would put an extra £45 million into income support for old people in long-stay care will not cover the rising costs of residential care. It will also be no comfort to most old people who do not qualify for the maximum income support.

But the first insurance policies to cover the cost of long-term care are about to appear and medical insurers such as BUPA and Private Patient Plan are to introduce schemes soon.

Eagle Star is the only insurance company to have announced a limited form of long-stay insurance cover. It has joined the health-care company Bioplan to provide insurance for elderly people living in Bioplan's new sheltered housing development in Kidderminster.

Residents can insure themselves against climbing charges by paying premiums to keep the weekly care charge at £190 a week, even if their health deteriorates and costs increase.

The premiums depend on the age of entry into the scheme but they are high—55-year-olds will pay £164 a month, for example, and 80-year-olds £447 a month. The resident has to pay the first 10 per cent of any increase or £80 a month, whichever is higher. The scheme is aimed at the



Affording new shelter: Ray Cuff, a director of Bioplan, at the group's housing development in Kidderminster better off who can afford to pay about £70,000 for a one-bedroom house on the development.

The cost of long-stay care insurance cover that is not limited to the residents of a particular sheltered housing development is also likely to be high, although no company is yet prepared to commit itself to figures.

Mr David Cavers, the chief commercial executive of Private Patients Plan, said if a policy gave an open-ended guarantee of long-term care cover for as long as was

depending on age at entry are reviewed annually without any need for further medical examinations.

But Mr Cavers said: "We will end up with open-ended guarantee schemes because closed plans which finish after four years are not so appealing."

Long-stay-care cover will not only be expensive but will probably be hedged around with exclusion clauses if the pattern of provision in this country follows that in the United States.

The policy will pay out only if long-stay care in a nursing home or residential home is ordered by a doctor. The alternative of home nursing, which many elderly people prefer, may not be covered.

There is also likely to be an exclusion period of between 20 and 100 days before the policy begins paying out.

According to Mr James Webber, health-care consultant at Tillinghast, the actuary, elderly people might need three months of care before receiving benefit.

Mr Cavers said policy holders would have the choice of paying a single premium at the time of going into long-stay care or regular premiums earlier. The problem is that few people want to think about needing long-stay care when they are healthy, so insurance companies intend to lobby for tax relief to encourage people to begin saving.

LETTERS

Men still more equal

From Mrs I. Christopher
Sir, When Mr Lawson announced plans for separate taxation of men and women much emphasis was put on the principle of equality. However, when my husband and I recently asked for the married couple's allowance to be given to the wife rather than the husband, we were told that this was not possible and the accompanying leaflet explained that the transfer of the allowance, or part thereof, is only permissible if the husband earned less than is covered by allowances.

This ignores the issue of higher rate taxation. There must be quite a few couples where the husband earns less, perhaps because he is already retired, and part of the wife's income is subject to the higher rate tax. However, such a couple will be penalized by comparison with what still seems to be considered the

norm, ie that the husband is the main breadwinner.

The term "married couple's allowance" clearly is a misnomer and seems to have been chosen to camouflage the discriminatory situation which persists in tax law.

Yours faithfully,
MRS I. CHRISTOPHER,
42 Mount Avenue,
W5.

Poll-tax answer

From J. Argustin
Sir, Your correspondent Mr Eric Willcocks (page 31, Money section March 10) can avoid paying the poll tax on his mother's unsaleable flat by simply letting it to another elderly person, who will then be responsible for the community charge.

Yours faithfully,
J. ARGUSTIN,
36 Park Royal,
Montpelier Road,
Brighton.

Tax year term-account poser

From Mr Alan P. Hughes
Sir, In her article on March 24, Miss Lindsay Cook indicates how one can take advantage of the new regime by investing in a one-year term account on April 6 1990, pointing out that one would have to tie up one's money for a year and "forego any interest payments before April 6 1991."

But surely, this interest on April 6 1991 then becomes income of the tax year

1991/92, whereas non-payers need fully-tax-paid income in 1990/91 in order to be able to reclaim tax for that year and not miss out one year of being able to secure tax repayment from when independent taxation comes into force on April 6 1990?

Yours faithfully,
Alan P. Hughes,
Chartered Accountant,
36 Northey Avenue,
Chesham, Surrey.

Pop in the Post Office for gilts

From Mr Alfred Cassell
Sir, Your article in *The Times* (March 24) advised purchasing gilt stock via the National Savings Stock Register; I should be grateful if you would kindly provide the address of the register.

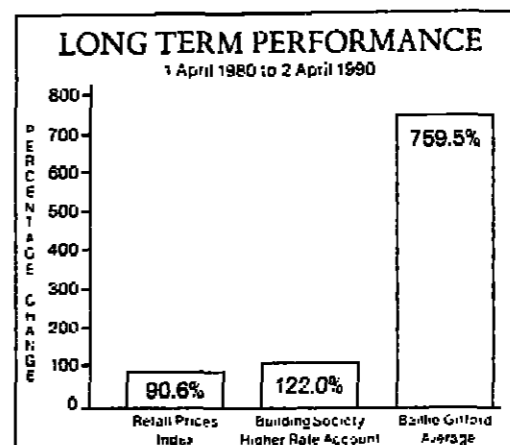
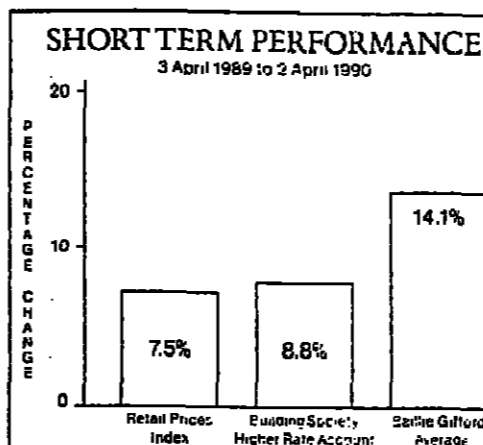
Yours faithfully,
ALFRED CASSELL,
7 Little Gaddesden,
Berkhamstead,
Hertfordshire.

The Department of National Savings says the best way to purchase gilt stock is by obtaining an application form from your local Post Office.

Readers' letters for publication are welcomed but *The Times* regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice.

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*Source: Money Management April 1990 Managed Fund Sector Performance.

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THE TIMES

REVIEW

SECTION 3

SATURDAY APRIL 7 1990

At the desert court of Sultan Qaboos

Once a year the Sultan of Oman leaves his palace to dispense instant government at tribal gatherings in his desert kingdom. This year Brian James went with him

Gathering his robes about him, a tribal elder leaned forward until his head almost touched that of his sovereign. The low murmur of voices, the colour of the men's robes and the mats on which they squatted, the stillness of the desert stretching to every horizon, gave the scene an almost biblical texture. Except for the machine guns at their feet, and the nature of the elder's spoken petition.

Could the ruler, spake the elder, do anything about those ministry fools who kept failing him in his driving test. After all, out here amid all this space was it likely he would have an accident? His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said murmured his regrets: "Out here you would be safe. But then you would drive to a city and probably kill someone. You must go away and practise."

The elder shrugged and moved away. His place was taken by another, seeking, perhaps, a larger school for his village. Or an improvement to his region's telephone reception. Or a link to the motorway. Or air tickets to take an ailing wife to Harley Street. Or a new car in keeping with his dignity as the head of a tribe.

Each was accorded equal grave attention, and often an equally swift decision. For when the Sultan of Oman goes on his annual journey to face his people (or, more essentially, their unhesitating demands), he is touring a form of government curiously unafraid to present itself for judgement. That is why ranged behind him, in unassuming robes, are 17 members of his cabinet: let there be a complaint about a civil servant grown insolent in office, or a pension still unpaid, and the responsible minister is beckoned forward to answer.

For two weeks each year, the travelling majlis tours the deepest interior of this desert kingdom, set on the south-east corner of the Arabian peninsula. It has done so for 15 years, since Sultan Qaboos decided that the Arab custom of making petitioners travel for days and wait weeks for an audience at the palace was a waste of time. His and theirs.

For the first time, on this 20th anniversary of his accession to power, it was decided that one foreign newspaper might come to take, an albeit distant, view of the process. He chose *The Times*. To find the Sultan in these weeks one drives out of his capital, Muscat, into the yellow flatlands broken by conical hills of sand, gravel and rock rising 10,000ft, as though this was where God keeps the raw material for his next great work: here a man knows what it is to be an ant in a builder's yard.

On a great plain is today's majlis. A cluster of sky-blue tents marks its place, and one might have supposed this was just another Bedouin nightstop shimmering up through the haze but for the roadside presence of desert people, some towing camels, others roasting in four-wheel-drive vehicles, waiting patiently for their ruler to come by.

Patience is necessary, for in the Arab way there is no schedule for this or any other day. Meetings start when the most important arrive. But bystanders do not need a programme: there is only one star in this fast-moving procession; the man in the mid-brown robes driving his own Land-Rover. They wave, he smiles, and then he is gone. Unless, that is, something takes his eye.

A year back it was a village devastated by the flash-floods that can come roaring down the wadis after rain on these impermeable hills. Sultan Qaboos called up an army command car and took charge of rescue and repair operations. Miles up the route, hundreds of tribesmen waited for the majlis that never came.

Today, in the desert near Dauka, this congregation is luckier. Without preamble, the Sultan's convoy of Jeeps comes speeding out of the ring of blue tents to the hillock where perhaps 500 elders have gathered. Each gets a handshake and greeting. Then they sit, and those who have the most urgent things to say have that say, a sort of unofficial rota having been drawn up by consent. They say no one who is determined will be denied a private word, and certainly as the afternoon moves towards its abrupt death at dusk, no one appears to be in a hurry to call



Day of the majlis: Sultan Qaboos, dressed in mid-brown robes and squatting on his haunches amid armed guards, listens to a tribesman's petition. Alongside him, his cabinet ministers. At top, a secretary takes notes

"Any other business?" As the requests and responses drone on dust-devils mark every skyline: some caused by winds swirling as the temperature reaches 38°C, others by the constantly circling patrols of the Sultan's SAS-trained desert troops.

Their firepower is a precaution; we are not far from the Yemeni border where fighting raged for years. The guns, pistols and daggers carried by almost every tribesman are tokens of an enduring willingness to fight for the Sultan's family, as they have done for centuries.

In exchange, they take for granted the right to ask without shame for anything they might need, beginning with justice. If they feel wronged they must prove the charge — or face a fierce summons to the capital to front the Sultan if they have indeed slandered his officials. If they have a need, they must make out a case. There is no embarrassment in asking for something for one's self... more camels, air-conditioning for a house.

Increasingly, only the personal and the trivial are left to be

requested. The basic infrastructure provides for lives of civilized ease; there is little now to ask. For the reality behind this medieval caravan is the startling transformation of Oman in just 20 years, from the most backward of Middle East nations to probably the most advanced.

Sultan Qaboos replaced an old man whose fierce sense of duty to his Islamic nation was expressed in a horrified ban on all western influence. The few people permitted to penetrate Oman before the present Sultan took British help to overthrow his father (Sultan Said bin Taimur, who became the coup's only casualty as, reaching for a pistol at his night table, he shot himself in the foot) have lurid memories of this land as it was before. They recall entry at an airport of two tin huts, before departing (via the 10 miles of paved road which was all Oman then boasted) towards a capital that slammed its doors at dusk.

They remember a country where health was defended by two filthy clinics. Where illiteracy was nearly total, and malnutrition endemic. Where written per-

mission was needed to own a radio, ride a bicycle, or to wear glasses, and was usually denied. And a country from which no Omani was permitted to leave, save on the old Sultan's business.

Driving away from Dauka, watching camels trail each other towards unimaginable destinations that presumably exist out there, one reflects that they are planting the last, romantic footprints of an old life. Today, there is practically no Omani village without a sweet-water well. No Omani fisherman without an outboard motor and a freezer in which to store his catch. No community without its clinic. No child without a teacher, and hope of a university education. No region so remote as to be beyond the reach of paved road, electricity pylon, job opportunity and legal redress.

The infrastructure of present-day Oman is therefore often as improbable as the mirages which shimmer on its interior sands. The miracle has been worked, of course, with money. Oil money. Money spent without restraint by an autocrat applying the single test: "Do we need it? Then let work commence."

But the money has not been spent on frill, ostentation or glitz. Muscat has one stand of skyscrapers because that is what the computers of its business district demand: the rest of the capital, strung out beside the Gulf waters, is low-rise, pretty and traditional, coloured in all the hues of the sands.

Omani architecture leans heavily on Wren: that is to say P.C. rather than Christopher, for Beau Geste would be instantly at home here, where Arabic peak-arched windows and roof firing-slots are seen as being as appropriate for petrol station as for palace.

The Sultan's eye is everywhere in this. He recently drove past an estate of new homes put up by a relative. "Too close. In a few years they will be a slum. Pull them down." Demolition work began within days, but a money-draft for compensation arrived only a little later.

The lifestyle of Sultan Qaboos is not gross. Educated in England privately, then at Sandhurst (later serving with a British infantry battalion, and in a staff post), he is happy in the company of other soldiers and horses; happier with paintings and music. It was a day of rare extravagance when, in 1985, he lit up every mile of Muscat motorway with 92 million fairy-lights to celebrate 15 years in power.

But that, he explained, was for his people; his own "treat" was to send a jet to fly the London Symphony Orchestra to Muscat to play Mozart in his personal concert hall on his birthday. A compact disc would, of course, have been cheaper, but it is unlikely that the two million Omanis would have begrudged him this mildly excessive outlay.

They live now in a land of no income tax, subsidized utilities, where health and education are provided free, and where fear of the Sultan's sole authority is so little that those who cannot wait for his caravan to come around can, by custom, wait at his palace gate, and hailing him by name, ask for relief.

Again Sultan Qaboos is no soft touch. But the rules are simple: if the petitioner can make his case, the Sultan writes a decision on a loose-leaf page offered by a secretary, signs it, and the remedy must begin before sundown of the following day. That can mean an

overdue payment arriving in cash, or an Omani Air Force helicopter hovering in those milk-chocolate mountains to pick a site for a television signal relay station.

Gazing on Omani society can be unnerving: where are its wars? This is an Islamic country where you may drink, if that is your foolish wish; where women (most still veiled in modesty) are so respected that they can walk late and unaccompanied, and yet so emancipated that some become police constables. The few instances of petty pilfering occur in the cities, and are blamed on

Pakistanis or Filipinos (this is as much realism as racism: migrant workers are the only true poor). So the smart police keep an eye out for dirty cars, and fine the drivers up to £250.

There are no political parties because all the power is in the hands of one man ("advised" betimes by a consultative council of appointees), but nor is there poverty to give dissension a seeds a purchase.

Another jolt: we had left Sultan Qaboos an hour behind us when we passed a man pacing beneath a burning sky, head down like a dawn mushroom seeker, scouring

Continued overleaf



Instant action: the Sultan's decisions must be acted on before sundown

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THE NED SHERRIN COLUMN



King of Siam gets his wires crossed

We are into place-dropping this week. We start in Bristol with a nod to Miami, and take in Wood Lane, Southampton, Budapest, Moscow, the Isle of Man and Chiswick. I drove from Southampton to Bristol to appear on beleaguered HTV's new late-night chat show *It's Nearly Saturday*. I enjoyed a reunion with Liz Robertson — just back from touring America with Nureyev in *The King and I*.

She returned with immense affection for the Russians and a gross of stories. On one occasion, in a cold, full theatre, the King of Siam arrived on stage with a poncho round his bare shoulders, clogs on his bare feet, muttering: "Now I am warm," and turned the "Shall We Dance" polka into a clog dance.

In Miami, they were playing the end of Act 1 when Rudolf barely made the stage in time for his entrance and was immediately distracted. Mrs Anna is subtly advising the king on how to convince the British he is not a barbarian. To each of her suggestions he replies that that is exactly what he had intended. To Mrs Anna's and the audience's confusion, the king's lines were peppered with frantic calls of "Matt — the phone!" to the stage manager in the wings, accompanied by bizarre mimings.

Liz could see Matt giving Nureyev repeated thumbs down. No way was he going to bring a telephone on for Rudolf to conduct a 20th century conversation in 19th century Siam. Eventually the curtains fell and Nureyev sped to his dressing-room. It transpired that in his dash to the stage he had interrupted a long-distance call to

Paris and left the receiver off. He was paying for the call.

The first *It's Nearly Saturday* went smoothly, but my other television experience was not so good. If anyone has a grudge against me, revenge is at hand if they watch BBC2 next Wednesday at 4.30 pm. Emma Freud presides over *Plunder*, a series in which people ransack television archives.

In 1976, a BBC director rang to say he was doing a play about Michael Arlen (played by Alan Badel). There was a two-minute scene in it, a reunion with Noël Coward. "We thought it would be good to have you play Coward," he said. "rather than a proper actor." I had an afternoon to spare, mastered a few of the master's chestnuts ("looking like a heavily doped Chinese illusionist"), presented myself at the television centre, recorded it and left for America. It went out while I was there so I hadn't seen it before.

It is the worst piece of acting ever recorded on videotape. My banana fingers flag their presence at the lens in extravagant parody of Coward's well-known gesture. The voice is strangled, the appearance gross. You have been warned.

However, there are redeeming features in the programme, especially an ironic excerpt from an interview with Norman St John-Stevas, as he then was. He responds to the question: "Did you find it easy nudging a self-willed woman down the right path?" with: "I've got a little will of my own". An inquiry about who learnt more quickly, when he and Mrs Thatcher took French lessons in Camden at the Ministry of Education, elicits

the response: "I don't know, we took them at opposite ends of the corridor. But the Prime Minister is a very fast mover." She is. Four days later he was out of a job.

MY MEN in Moscow, Budapest and the Isle of Man have all come up with titbits which put recent dispatches from Deal to shame. In Moscow, a member of the Congress of People's Deputies was enthusing recently about the pace of change. "especially now we have our women's group". My man thought he was in on the first stirrings of feminism inside the Soviet Union. "We are sending them to classes," said his proud informant. "We were so embarrassed by our wives. They don't know how to eat, which knife, which fork, what to do with a napkin. They don't know how to dress, to dance... the women's group is now making progress." So much for Russian feminism.

From Budapest, my man reports a curious legacy of Husak. The President had a peculiar passion for bathrooms. All his official buildings are splattered with them. Now that a new and more enlightened bureaucracy is evolving, you cannot walk down those corridors of power without seeing secretaries squatting on bathtubs hammering at their typewriters, which are perched precariously on washbasins.

Victor Spinetti reports from the Isle of Man that the place is overrun by navvies. Signs saying "No soiled clothing" on pub doors proliferate as they do in London, but a new twist is "No boots inside the hotel". You no longer look for a "Vacancies" sign, you count the boots



ON the steps and know instantly if the place is full.

ON SUNDAY the Arts Educational School held a gala in its new school

theatre in Chiswick in aid of the building fund. The president, Dame Alicia Markova, opened the dance proceedings and Jane Seymour the drama excerpts. I brought on the musicals. Jane started her training at the Arts as a dancer before deciding that acting was for her.

As 125 children, from tots to teenagers, danced on and off the stage in the first four minutes, she recalled a similar occasion when she and her colleagues were on show and could not afford costumes. "We ransacked the downstairs curtains and turned them into long skirts." I should have asked who designed her spectacular flame-coloured dress — it certainly wasn't made from the downstairs curtains.

FINALLY, back to Southampton to start previewing *Same Old Moon* at the Nuffield Theatre. I have picked up a happy piece of local history. Southampton was the scene of one of the war's remarkable mini-dramas. On June 2, 1944, Churchill was there in his personal train, determined to accompany the invasion forces on D-Day (June 6).

For safety reasons, Eisenhower and the service chiefs were equally determined to prevent him. They played a desperate card. That evening, Churchill received a message from George VI saying that if it was right for the Prime Minister to take part in the invasion, then he himself had an even stronger claim as head of all three fighting services. Churchill gave way.

PETER McKAY

If I were...

I would try to be pictured dancing with the Princess of Wales. It is not that I need to pick up votes among the nation's dancers or monarchists. Rather it might suggest that my public appearances are not wholly restricted to political events or entertainments. Labour leaders have long had a problem with social occasions. I must not allow supporters to believe I have been seduced by the London rich. Harold Wilson enjoyed brandy and Havana cigars and sitting up late chatting in a dinner jacket. But he took care that he was photographed with pints of beer and a pipe. Roy Hattersley tells me I am even more cautious than Wilson in my social life and my apparent edginess outside Labour circles is worrying to those



... Neil Kinnock

who have no clear idea of my personality or fitness for high office. I must mix with the enemies of Labour. I shall accept more invitations to West End first nights. If invited I shall not hesitate to instruct Eton College of Labour's plans for education. I must also reach out to the editors of Tory papers. Back in the 1960s, Harold was guest of honour at the fiftieth anniversary banquet of the *Sunday Express*. He gave a splendid after-dinner speech mocking the overwhelmingly Tory audience with wit and grace. They laughed and pounded their tables throughout.

I, too, am a witty man. After the way I stood up to Militant, I can also claim to be a brave man. Yet people still say I am one-dimensional. Whatever disagreements I have with Tory Party views, I do not feel personal animus against Tory voters. The same goes for newspaper editors. Perhaps it is time I made myself known to the City and the Bar and was photographed with the Royal Family. Few Labour voters seek the abolition of the monarchy. Indeed, older ones like their leaders to get on with the Queen.

Our rickety old political system works largely because we believe that when one party defeats another, life goes on much as before. The polls suggest I stand a good chance of becoming Prime Minister. Tory voters are having to face this idea for the first time in years. It would do no harm to show I can live with them.



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The Girl Guides Association is shortly to announce major changes. The result of five years' planning, the new initiatives will take the movement into the 21st century.

Later this month the first new uniform since the movement was founded in 1910 will be revealed. For the past three years, designer Jeff Banks has given his services free to rework the clothes for Brownies, Guides, Rangers and the adult officers, who form such an important part of the movement. For the first time, trousers will be an option.

It is hoped the fresh image created by the new uniforms will help to recruit more adults. The old-fashioned styles which made them look like policemen or traffic wardens have acted as a disincentive in recent years. Few women have enough time to run a Guide unit single-handed, and the association aims to find at least two assistants for every principal, each prepared to give a little time rather than the major dedication which was formerly required.

Another change is the handbook. Once entitled *Policy, Organisation and Rules*, at the end of May it will be replaced by *The Guiding Manual*.

"The aim," says June Paterson-Brown, the chief commissioner, "is to reduce the regulations. In the past, Guides tended to go to the rule book to see if they were permitted to do something. We have been restricting our members far too much."

Strict rules were once important. "When the Girl

New look at Guides

For the first time since 1910, the Guides are to have a fresh image, says Geraldine Ranson

Guides Association started, girls couldn't speak without being spoken to," the commissioner explains. "That is why they wanted to join the Scouts and go to camp and have fun like the boys. However, they had to be seen to be protected and had to get their parents' permission to join."

The girls had to be obedient to have the chance of marriage, an important consideration in 1910. Now the association wants to make it easier for members to participate in what they want to do rather than restrict them to working for their badges, as in the past. They can pursue almost every outdoor activity, except hang-gliding, although research carried out in 1987 showed that camping and cooking over a wood fire remain favourite activities.

Today the association has difficulty in finding good community service projects for the 733,000 Guides. Calling at people's houses is unsafe. There is now no bob-a-job and even getting to and from meetings has to be supervised carefully.

With a maximum of 36 girls to a unit, the relationship between the Guide and her charges is close. The girls talk in a group and train each other, while the leader is there with special knowledge to help and direct them. Discussions can cover subjects such as sex before marriage, contraception and Aids. If the Guide prefers not to take part, an adviser from outside can be provided. Dr Paterson-Brown says: "We are trying to overcome leaders saying 'Our girls are not like that.'"

Although three Northumbrian schoolgirls have recently been accepted into the Scouts, Patricia Lawrence, public relations adviser to the association, says: "Girls still need space with their own sex to develop confidence to participate fully in a male-dominated society."

While the new manual will allow Guides to decide what to do at meetings, they will also be allowed to choose what they will wear from the new mix-and-match uniform. Modern women, the association believes, have reached full self-determination.

Rather surprisingly, for an officer in an organization pledged to the service of God, the Queen and to helping others, Mrs Lawrence adds: "We do try to encourage women to promote themselves." The Guides still have a mission but theirs is the gentle face of feminism.

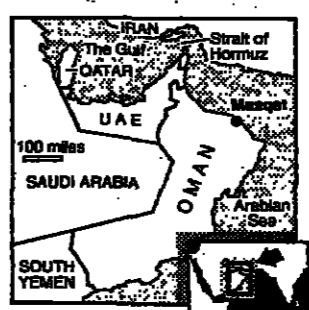
Making a desert bloom

Continued from previous page for litter. Tidy cities, yes. But we were still nearly 100 miles from a town. This is also a society that has been made to care for its surroundings. Millions of flowering shrubs and trees are automatically watered three times daily with recycled effluent.

In mortal danger of describing paradise, I caution here that Oman seems simply the best-organized country I have visited. The shape of the one warning cloud was defined out there in Duka by Sultan Qaboos in his wrap-up words, as his hunkered audience was preparing to stretch its legs.

Omanis, he said, must be prepared to "accept those jobs now being done by expatriates". Accept? Surely the whole point of the past five-year plan had been "Omanization", the determined replacement of the chiefs in the armed forces, the heads of government departments and senior positions in commercial houses of the predominant Britons and other Europeans by his own people. Accept? Surely bright Omanis would be jumping to replace expatriates in jobs.

That depends on which expatriates and which jobs. Said one Masqat hotelier: "I can get Omanis into this industry — provided I start them as managers. The idea of going to catering school to learn how to wait on table appeals them." A German engineer said: "An Omani pick up a shovel? Are you joking?



You couldn't even get them to pick up a tape and measure the hole the Indians were digging. But if you asked them to price the job...

That gets close to it. It is not that Omanis are lazy, rather that they have a heightened sense of their own value, a sharper awareness of a trading tradition of ancient provenance. Sultan Qaboos is partly responsible for this, too. The education he made available to all includes sessions on Oman's 3,000-year heritage as an exploring, trading nation, with voyages to China, India and Persia: a colonial power, with possessions in Africa and the Indian sub-continent. This vision of their land's importance before it slipped through a crack in history's pavement was as heady as persuading the spivs at the Spanish Steps, or the Vespa-louts on the Via Veneto, that they inherit the glory that was Rome.

With the oil reserves not infinite, Oman has to replace those revenues with light industries, agriculture and fisheries. The students soon to graduate from the first intake into Masqat's superb new university clearly see roles for themselves in all this. But "hands-on"? They shuddered: a door marked with their name leading to an air-conditioned office was rather more what most have in mind. Two years ago, when all visitors needed an Omani sponsor, just 2,000 tourists came. The plan now is for 60,000 tourists a year by 1995 to visit the stunning beaches and rebuilt desert fortresses. Drunks and the indecent will be dealt with very simply: the agent who brought them will never be invited back, thus guaranteeing that Oman gets only the style of guests it feels it deserves.

But someone must be ready to serve this elite. And that spirit of robust independence which makes Omanis unafraid to wait at their Sultan's door to exercise their right for a sharp word, does not make them anxious to wait on the tables of his visitors.

Sultan Qaboos, a man endlessly generous amid the elders, may yet have to pass among his younger people handing out not gifts, but the odd admonitory clout. Or send a generation, that has been given in such plenty what its fathers never had at all, out walking the sands surrounding where we see him sitting. Oman's burning stretches are profoundly capable of making all men feel humble.

A CHILDHOOD: NORMAN WILLIS

'I suppose we judged our social scale to some extent on whether the wife went out to work'

Norman Willis was well into his teens before he realized, with something of a shock, that in the comic interpretation of schoolboy history he was a "townie". Brought up, like everybody else in the Thirties and Forties, on comics, it simply had not occurred to him that it was boys like himself who were the natural enemies of the public school heroes of fiction with whom he had been encouraged to identify.

The realization seems to have been rather than confused or embittered him — just something else that a boy from his background did not and could not know about, like music or poetry.

He is now the general secretary of the TUC, having, largely through the Transport and General Workers' Union, had his share of good fortune, and the lack of fair opportunities for others without his luck still gives him "a sense of outrage".

He was born in Hayes, Middlesex, in 1933, and brought up in nearby Ashford, about half a mile from where he now lives. The youngest of five, his father was a hairdresser's assistant with a penchant for organizing for the union. He finally fixed himself up with a radical barber just before the war started.

"I think they used to do more discussions than shaves. But they were bombed out with practically the first bomb to hit west London, and he was taken on as a cook, carpenter and labourer with the Ordnance Department," he says.

His mother, who worked in the canteen at a laundry when he was growing up (canteen and laundry staff are traditionally the lowest paid), was also politically involved, and possibly the more ambitious of the two parents. It used to be said that he went to work for the TUC as a wooden horse for Jack Jones, the transport union leader. But the truth was that his mother became aware of the job vacancy through the *Trin* and made him promise to apply. She died just before he took up the job.

"I wasn't aware of being particularly deprived. No one had very much then and we weren't poverty stricken. But I can remember the anxiety when the gas man was due to come, because we had a coin box which was geared up to the next unit so there was always some money to come back and my mother would rely on that. I wrote a poem about it actually." (He is also now vice-president of the Poetry Society.)

"I suppose we judged our social scale to some extent on whether the wife went out to work. Being a busman was a good job, regular and quite well paid, and I remember being very impressed when the son of one of the policemen who lived across the road told me that they had a cooked tea. I was about eight, and that would be the first time I'd known anyone who had a cooked tea. It was sad on toast.

"It wasn't abject poverty, but it was pretty well standard hard-up. Once I was sent to the shops with a pound note and I lost it. It wasn't easy to lose a pound note in those days. My mother was very upset. 'Just when I'd seen it through to the end of the week,' she said.

"We never had a holiday and I didn't know that people did. The freedom to that young people have now is fantastic. In the long holidays I would go to the laundry where my mother worked and throw a few bundles of clothes around."

Labour Party politics and union activities were a central part of his childhood, but not, he thinks, in an over-zealous way. "If my parents had been asked 'Are you your brother's keeper?', they would have replied 'yes'. They believed in society, and I was taught that you didn't just do everything for yourself. It's important to get the balance right. Union affairs and the Labour Party were a natural part of their lives, but they weren't obsessed by it."

One of his earliest memories is of sitting by the Serpentine in Hyde Park with his mother when Neville Chamberlain happened to walk by. "I can remember it now. A woman in a suit curtsied to him and I asked my mother why she was doing that."

His father was the treasurer for the Feltham Trades Council and his mother was a delegate and they would do the trades council accounts on the kitchen table. "It was a ritual. My mother would

by Ray Connolly

say 'look in the pocket of your best suit'. She was always quicker at it than he was. Then he would get upset and say 'I'm the treasurer, you know'."

"They used to hold the trades council meetings in a NUR room over the station and I remember the meetings took less time in the summer because the room was over the stables and when it got hot it got rather alive."

Brought up in Labour activities, the first example of internationalism he witnessed was Christmas 1945, when his mother insisted upon having German and Italian prisoners of war to the house.

"I'd seen the war through the comics and I remember having to walk all the way across the town with a prisoner of war in his uniform. I can't recall being enthusiastic. I was afraid someone was going to call me a Nazi. But my mother thought it was the right thing to do."

How much his life was circumscribed by the war he finds difficult to say. Certainly he remembers feeling very keenly that he must save to win the war and that if he didn't collect enough rose hips (for making vitamin C) Hitler would win. "I was one of the better ones around on rose hips." In his schoolboy eyes the war was won by his father and Ernest Bevin, the Labour minister.

For the election in 1945 he remembers seeing both his parents standing on chairs in the street raising money for the Labour Party. When a man from the road opposite contributed a 10 shilling note, he was astonished. In 1950 and 1951 he canvassed from door to door.

"My basic attitudes were formed knocking on thousands of doors and finding out that the working class wasn't quite as described in Marx. They were very mixed. That was an education."

His formal schooling was initially less successful. Bright enough to get a scholarship to a grammar school, he was

not encouraged to consider university and left at 16.

"Clearly I could have done the work at university because eventually I did. But no one suggested staying into the sixth form. No one I knew had been to university. I used to think until quite late on, until just before I went to Ruskin in fact, that at university you did all the things you'd done at school, only to a higher level. I thought I'd have to do arithmetic and French because no one had told me I wouldn't."

His first job was in a greenhouse soaking plants in tobacco solution which was very boring. As it happens, it gave him a taste of how unreasonable employers could be when he was told that the boys were not allowed to listen to the radio while they worked. It wouldn't have hurt the boss to let them listen, and it would have made the day go twice as quickly, he reasoned. But it was not allowed. From there he became an office boy at the Transport and General Workers' Union, his parents' trade union, which pleased them enormously. Then at 18 he was called up for his National Service.

"I was quite excited at going into the Army because I'd never been anywhere before. I remember I kept getting a map out and looking at my tickets, things like that. At that time the only place I'd been at all was to stay with my married sister somewhere in Kent, which seemed a very long way to me. I remember the train went through a long tunnel and when it came out at the other side there were sheep in the field. I'd never seen sheep in a field before."

As it happens "Signalman Willis N.D. 22480142" hated the Army, always aware that he was reliant upon the goodwill of others rather than a real system of justice. "The best job I had was cleaning the drains because no one supervised you too closely when you were doing that. In the end I made it to the quartermaster's office."

Back at Transport House he became a clerk in the TGWU education department, arranging courses for London busmen. He also took some courses and at 22 his life changed when he went up to Ruskin College, Oxford, to read for a diploma in philosophy and political science. Two years later he transferred to Oriel, graduating in 1959 with a "good second".

Oxford was a complete eye-opener for him, not least seeing "a Greek god get out of a taxi carrying a squash racket while the college porter struggled with two large suitcases."

He thought Ruskin was terrific. "It was the first time I'd been taken seriously by people of quite high calibre. Of course 1956 was the time of Hungary and Suez so there was quite a lot going on."

There were changes of routine, too. "I remember a northern friend of mine saying how great it was that you could go to bed in the afternoon if you felt like it. That was very strange for us because we'd always worked. The other side to that was, of course, that you'd find yourself sitting doing an essay on a Saturday night." At first he missed the feeling of having the weekend off.

When he moved to Oriel ("specializing in monetary and fiscal economics out



Union poet: Willis's parents believed in society and they taught him that you did not do everything for yourself

of loyalty to the Labour movement instead of doing something I was good at") he remained detached from the university, choosing not to live in college. He regrets that now, and thinks he was probably unnecessarily uneasy. All the same he never got used to the way some ex-public schoolboys in those days referred to each other by their surnames.

He made some good friends there, becoming aware of music by talking to a boy from a school where they put a great emphasis on music.

"It was nothing precious to him but he

got a lot out of it. And I've now met people who are soaked in it and it gives them an enormous amount of totally engrossing pleasure. But unless you know about these things you don't know whether you would have liked them or not. And I didn't know."

(He now goes occasionally to opera which he enjoys although he admits he does find the plots a little hard to take.) By his final year at Oriel he was anxious to get back to work and having done particularly well in the paper on philosophy he returned to Transport

House as research assistant to Frank Cousins — a first step on the ladder.

Now with two grown children (his wife Maureen was once secretary to Neil Kinnock) he enjoys writing poetry, painting and reading.

"I'd like people to be able to take opportunities which they genuinely feel are there, and not to look out at the world with so much of a 'here there are dragons' attitude. I always remember reading what a head of Harvard once said: 'If you think education is expensive, try doing without it.'"

A pub needs taste, not only in its beer

STEPHEN Bayley says he learnt a great deal about art and life in Liverpool pubs. They were, according to the former head of London's Design Museum, second only to those in Glasgow in their ability to excite in many senses in one place at one time. That was 20 years ago.

For some reason the design of leisure facilities never really grew up. After the Victorians, who did it best, it reached its nadir in the Fifties and Sixties. But now, where nostalgia and

much more critical of their cars, in which they spent up to a quarter of their waking lives, but cars demonstrated the best of contemporary standards. We should expect more from the design of places in which we spend our leisure hours, he said.

Five schemes were short-listed, with design and build contractors, Dean & Bowes, declared the winner for the Duke of Cambridge pub in Battersea, South London.

The pub was stripped of its false ceiling over the bars to reveal cut-mirrored panels more in keeping with the 1860s glass and timber screen and original Victorian panelling. Outside, a cast iron and glass canopy extends some 18ft to the pavement, where the area was repaved with bricks, railings and planting, making it a popular outdoor location on fine evenings.

Second was Henry's Cafe Bar, Birmingham, by Inn Design Services. It has an art and crafts theme: a polished hardwood service bar with marquetry inserts and leaded lights. Third was Stephen Bull's restaurant, Marylebone, making the most of its eccentric plan with lighting and mirrors; fourth was Confucius Restaurant, Wimbledon, consisting of a geometric pattern of pavilions which give diners glimpses of each other between columns and alcoves. Fifth was Café Qui, Glasgow, styled in the manner of the famous Gilli Café in Florence, in white and green marble mahogany.

Charles Kneivitt

Considering how much modern pub and restaurant design is buried in re-pro-Victorian rat, or themed in outrageous glass-fibre kitsch, the first annual awards for pub and restaurant interiors, announced this week, was a welcome event. Mr Bayley, one of the judges, said that too many of the entries were over-complicated and fussy for his clean, modernist eye, reflecting that many designers were living in the past. "Designers have been petrified in recent decades," he said. "There is a lack of conviction in the age in which we live."

Generally, people were

In the mood for a change

THERE has been outcry in blues circles recently over the weekly BBC2 jazz and blues revival series, *Boogie On Down*, presented by Ian Boogie Live from the Sussex Downs. The series has featured important singers, with specials on blues artists such as Blind Lemon Jefferson, Deaf Strawberry Peterson and Slightly Peaky Orange Masterstroke. There has been acclaim, too, for the way in which the producers managed to persuade Lemon, Strawberry and Orange to get together in a jam. But many have complained that the series has ignored the achievements of arguably the greatest Old

Blues artists of the century. Fully-Sighted Kiwi-Fruit Fetherstonehaugh is unique among jazz and blues artists in that, from a very early age, he had absolutely no sense of rhythm. At the age of 18, his reinterpretations of classic swing tunes, among them *Ooh Pooah Poo Doo Pah Ding Bang Thud* and *Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy of Company W* earned him recognition as one of the most persistently swingless youngsters on the jazz circuit. By the age of 20 this qualification had gained him an invitation to play for the young Duke of Windsor at Windsor Castle.

Distressed by the grammatical errors that popped up with such frequency in American jazz, and upset by a certain coarseness of tone, Queen Mary held firmly to the view that, if jazz was to be played at all, then it should at least be played by people from good backgrounds who could sing the King's English. Believing that Duke Ellington, Count Basie and Earl Hines were all refugees from the lower reaches of the British aristocracy, she was said to have experienced some disappointment upon first meeting them. But with "Fetherstonehaugh



CRAIG BROWN

she was far from displeased. Sifting through the song-sheets before each dance, Queen Mary would take her quill to any lyrics that betrayed a slovenly acquaintance with Fowler's *Modern English Usage*. *Tiger Rag* became *Tiger Cloth*, while *It Don't Mean a Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing* was more suitably rendered as *Quite Honestly, It Does Not Mean An Awful Lot If It Has Yet To Receive A Swing-Seat*, the latter fitting Kiwi-Fruit's unique rhythms far more snugly. The smart parties of the 1930s took readily to Kiwi-Fruit's more refined jazz renditions. The British "upper classes" had long prized a certain stiffness of movement in their young, and this, combined with a disinclination to converse with the opposite sex, made Kiwi-Fruit's stilted syncopations on dance numbers such as *I Love To Talk About the Weather* and *Sailing My Baby Bye-Bye* an instant success. An entire roomful of party-goers would enjoy shaking hands with each other all evening to *Let's All Do The Handshake*, while the more romantic could let their hair down to *Actually, I Am*

Behaving, Kiwi-Fruit's spritely version of Louis Armstrong's *Ain't Misbehavin'*.

But soon America beckoned, and Kiwi-Fruit and his back-up group, The Luke Warm Peppers, set out on their first tour of the United States with high hopes. Wishing them all *revoir*, the influential British jazz quarterly *DeadBeat* enjoined them to "teach those Yanks that a pleasant manner and a cheery disposition can beat tunes and rhythm any day".

Their first gig was at a blues and jazz festival, held in the basement of a basement bar in downtown Chicago. There they met Blind Boy Davison, Slim Jones and Fats Waller. "Remind me again," said Kiwi-Fruit. "Which of you is which?"

This concert was Kiwi-Fruit's first introduction to real American blues, and he never looked back. Listening to Howlin' Peter's rendition of *My Mama's Gone Died*, *My Papa's Bin Drinkin' Agin*, *My Gramma's on Fire* and *There's Nothin' On The TV*, followed by Waitlin' Jack's piercing lament, *Nobody Wants To Kiss You When You're Bin Swallowin' Gold*

fish All Night, Kiwi-Fruit decided there and then to revive the English upper-class blues tradition of solid understatement backed with extraordinary lack of rhythm. Arming himself with a couple of bottles of Tizer, he sat up all night to write those two classics of English upper-class blues, *I'm So Blue I Can't Finish My Greens* and *Since You've Been Gone I've Been A Little Put Out, But I'm Managing To Cope*.

The next night he sang as he had never sung before, sometimes even hitting the floor with his shoe at roughly the same time as the beat. Rounding his session off with a few choruses of *I've Got Rhythm*, *I've Got Music*, *I've Got Rhythm*, *Who Could Ask For Much Else All Things Considered*, he rushed backstage to see how the set had gone down with some of the great names of jazz. "Excuse me, are you Dizzy?" he asked a gentleman holding a trumpet. "So maybe I've had a drink, what's it with you?" came the reply, and so he made his excuses.

He began to realize the toll that singing the blues places on any musician. The life of the American bluesman appeared to be a daily round of car-crashes and drug overdoses. Once, the great Blind Pee-Wee Cannonball Jelly-Roll Leadbelly was suffering from a mild stomach complaint and was consequently unable to go out and crash his car, so he asked Fetherstonehaugh to do it for him. Alas, Fetherstonehaugh was unused to crashing cars, and ended up merely parking it on a double yellow line. Leadbelly was furious, declaring that it would look terrible in any posthumous biography. This unpleasantness made poor Kiwi-Fruit so unhappy that he wrote one final song, *Too Cua Up to Sing The Blues*, before retiring forever. A full tribute remains long overdue.

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FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Forget fare dodging — Parisian commuters spend their time dodging market traders and Bolivian folk bands. Philip Jacobson goes underground

Of mice, men and the Métro



In the deepest tunnels of the Parisian Métro, something stirs in the darkness. It is the *Acheta campestris*, the common field-cricket, chirping away as merrily as in some country meadow. They never see the sun, and what they feed on down there is a mystery.

Discarded scraps of fast food, perhaps, or maybe the fleas that breed furiously in warm, damp crevices and make the life of maintenance workers a misery, colonizing anyone within reach, or the swarms of voracious mosquitoes lurking at ground level to nip ankles through the thickest of socks.

Resident insects apart, the Métro's low levels also host an enormous colony of mice, which thrive despite the attentions of the stray cats roaming the tunnels. A pair of pythons that presumably got loose on someone's journey — though their loss was never reported — lived off a diet of mouse for some weeks and were reported to have been in superb condition when recaptured.

So much for the wildlife beneath the streets of Paris; but what about the human factor, the 1.2 million people who use the 293 stations along the 94 miles of Chemin de Fer Métropolitain Métro lines every year? The vast majority might be tempted to laugh loudly and bitterly when they hear tourists singing the Métro's praises as the cleanest, the cheapest and the most efficiently run underground network in the world.

Of course, they are mostly Parisians, to whom *la grotte* — grumbling — comes as naturally as shoving a pregnant woman aside to get at the last seat in the carriage and tramping on toes when they get off. Their experience of the Métro is the miserable two rush hours a day when, in the judgement of one veteran traveller, it is strictly a case of heads down and *sautez-qui-peut*.

As a lively article in *Le Figaro* magazine observed not long ago, the vast majority of regular Métro users think in terms only of

"their" line, "their" station: jammed tight, staring blankly into space, mentally on auto-pilot until the commuter's inner clock announces that they have arrived.

For this class of passenger — among whom your correspondent, working gentleman's hours, is not often to be found — what the tourists treat as a fascinating *tableau vivant* of Paris, for the unbeatable price of just three francs, is often a royal pain in the neck. Take the massive station at Châtelet Les Halles, built under the old market, where several Métro lines intersect and the high-speed RER trains disgorge streams of commuters from the suburbs.

The whole complex sometimes resembles an unruly street market, with merchants from North Africa and, increasingly, the Indian sub-continent, hawking cheap clothing and shoes, jewellery, leatherware and tired-looking fruit and veg *à la servette* — on the hop, without benefit of the much sought-after licences issued by the Réseau Autonome de Transports de Paris, which runs the capital's underground and bus services.

Whatever the entertainment value of watching one of these illicit traders cram three dozen jackets into an innocent-looking suitcase in 10 seconds flat when an RATP inspector is spotted, there is a growing feeling among commuters that with some 1,500 such *camelots* (hawkers) now working the Métro, enough is quite enough.

The same applies to those whom the RATP classifies as "lacking permanent domicile", a sub-category of the breed sometimes romanticized (by outsiders) as the traditional *vinous clochard*, but today including the homeless, the jobless and the slightly deranged. No great nuisance when they are dossing down on the warmer platforms, their begging has become an increasing irritant: the courteous request for a couple of francs for a *coupe* of heavy red is fast giving way to brusque demands for travellers to put a

hand in their pocket — quite possibly followed by a mouthful of abuse for those who do not. Métro passengers must also put up with an ever-expanding tribe of itinerant musicians, one guitarist often stepping into the carriage as another steps out. While many Parisians are ready to hand over a coin from time to time — small price for a Bolivian folk group whose haunting melodies often make my journey to work more pleasant — continuous serenades of uneven quality can get on the nerves, particularly when the less talented use portable amplifiers to cover up musical deficiencies.

On the platforms, where full-scale sound systems are more easily deployed, the noise can sometimes be overwhelming. One thinks of the six-piece Afro-Jazz combo that rocks the riders on the RER platforms at Châtelet Les Halles, often before a crowd spilling back up staircases to connecting lines. No real harm done, granted, but commuters slogging home after a hard day's work can be excused for the occasional moment of exasperation.

To the RATP's credit, it is not attempting to banish the subterranean troubadours altogether. Instead, the authorities have requested that they avoid crowded trains and platforms and restrict themselves to two amplifiers of no less than 10 watts apiece. In the established French tradition, the musicians instantly formed an organization to fight for "the sacred liberty of self-expression": predictably, they were supported by France's publicity-obsessed Minister of Culture, Jack Lang, who is thought to use the Métro daily.

And so to the safety of the travelling public, which, admiring visitors may be interested to learn, is a subject of the same absorbing interest to Parisians as to users of the New York subway and the London Underground. Despite statistics showing that last year, assaults, muggings and other aggressions had fallen to around two thirds of the 1985 level, there is a widespread belief, particularly among women, that travelling on



Underground sales: there is a growing feeling among commuters that, with 1,500 illicit hawkers working the Métro, enough is enough

the Métro has become considerably more risky, even downright dangerous (*Le Figaro* estimates that the true number of attacks on passengers is three, maybe four, times higher than the official figure).

When the Métro's new director, Christian Blanc, took over, he made it clear that fighting crime would be a prime objective. To this end, the first agents of a new security force, the *Groupe d'Intervention et de Protection des Réseaux* (GIPR), are now patrolling the network in their distinctive — some might say distinctly odd — black and white leather jumpsuits.

According to the RATP's publicity machine, all are physical paragons, expertly trained in the martial arts and capable of sprinting 100 yards in less than 13 seconds (but were they tested in authentic Métro crowd con-

ditions, where every brolly is an offensive weapon and hairy young tourists deploy lethal rucksacks?). They must also pass a psychological test to ensure that their CS gas grenades and Japanese-style fighting sticks are used only in the last resort.

Just as well, to judge from a late-night incident at Nation station not long ago, when a unit of the Métro's regular security police suddenly came face to face with a group of armed men in hoods. By good fortune, the latter identified themselves as part of an entirely different force's "anti-tagge" squad — charged with hunting down graffiti sprayers — before any damage was done (to complicate matters, several hundred

plain-clothes RATP agents, most of them armed, also circulate around the network).

Readers planning a visit to Paris may care to know that Charles de Gaulle-Etoile (serving the Arc de Triomphe) and Opera stations have the worst record for pickpocketing and thefts from handbags, while Strasbourg-Saint-Denis and Nation are two blackspots for assaults. It is no coincidence that both are on Line Nine, the "crack track", where drug dealers ply their trade so openly that clients can make an appointment to meet them aboard a train at a given station, strike a bargain *en route* to the next and collect the goods further on down the line.

Much of Line Nine's violence occurs when dealers fall out, but ordinary passengers would be unwise to bank on immunity. And if they do get in trouble, RATP

security agents warn, do not expect the average French policeman to intervene. Arabic and Portuguese men in their fifties have the best record for coming to the aid of other travellers.

Still, finishing on a more cheerful note, what other underground system can hold a candle to the wonderful range of names given to Métro stations? From a score of Saints to three score Generals, Marshals and Admirals: from writers and artists to scientists and engineers: from George V to Garibaldi.

My own favourite remains Parnassier, after Baron Antoine Augustin Parnassier, 1737-1813. He was the agriculturalist who, after a terrible famine, persuaded Louis XVI to permit the introduction of the potato into France. As if his own station were insufficient, the Baron also lives on in menus as *potimes Parnassier*.

MUSEUMS

CHINESE CELEBRATIONS: Central Asian antiquities discovered by Sir Marc Stein early this century. British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (01-623 8525). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.30-6.00pm. Free. Until Aug 27.

LEATHERBACK: The world's largest and heaviest turtle forms centrepiece of a small exhibition. National Museum of Wales, Cardiff (0222 397951). Tues-Sat 10am-5pm. Adult £1, child 50p.

FOLLY AND VICE: The art of social satire and criticism.

EXHIBITIONS

seen by 55 artists. Royal Albert Museum, Queen Street, Exeter (0392-265858). Tues-Sat 10am-5.30pm. Until May 5.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE: Explorer sheets will help children discover museum gems. Find the answers and win a prize. Scheme runs throughout April. Florence Nightingale Museum, 2 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 (01-820 0374). Tues-Sun 10am-4pm.

Closed Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Easter Monday 10am-4pm. Adult £2, child £1.

SPORT '90: Traces progression of sport. Design Museum, Butlers Wharf, London SE1 (01-407 6265). Open daily, except Mon, 11.30am-6.30pm. 22, concessions £1.

MEN OF IRON: Blasts Hill Ironworks producing wrought iron. The Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Ironbridge, Telford, Shropshire (0952 453522). Daily 10am-6pm. Adult £4.50, OAP £3.50, student £3.

A fresher future

The end of ILEA means a new beginning for two of London's museums, reports Simon Tait

The Inner London Education Authority's demise last weekend means more than the shift of responsibility for London's schools: two of the city's best loved museums, the Geffrye in Hackney and the Horniman in Forest Hill, also undergo a sea change.

They emerge into adulthood with independent status and, on Monday and Tuesday respectively, will parade their new trustees and ambitious plans for the future.

For the Geffrye Museum it will bring the opportunity to replace the first floor of the almshouses, removed when it became the museum in 1914 "for reasons of hygiene", says the director, David Rodgers.

Since the schoolchildren and apprentices of London's East End, for whose instruction the museum was intended, were not frequent visitors, it was considered necessary to double the height of the galleries so that the air circulated more quickly. Mr Rodgers needs to find £200,000 to reinstate the first floor for offices, freeing the ground floor rooms for more gallery space.

The two museums were set up as London-wide educational museums, the Geffrye in the 14 almshouses built in 1715 at the bequest of Sir Robert Geffrye, a former Lord Mayor of London, and the Horniman in its purpose-built art nouveau building.

Both museums came under the bureaucracies and funding of the London County Council, then the GLC, and the prolix tribulations began with the GLC's abolition. Should the national museums take them on? They want to find themselves, two years later, in the same fix. Perhaps English Heritage should take them on, or the London boroughs?

The Geffrye was deep in discussion with the Museum of London when the decision was finally made to give it independence, with a grant



Reviving the Horniman: David Bostan, the director

from the Office of Arts and Libraries.

"It makes us more flexible, and more responsible — apart from anything else, we will have £750,000 next year compared with £80,000 this year, but we are aware that standards have to be maintained with that," Mr Rodgers says.

The Geffrye was founded as a museum to instruct the craftsmen and traditional furniture makers of the area, and to provide an educational resource for local schools. Since 1935 the rooms have been period recreations, moving chronologically from left to right from the Elizabethan Room, through Stuart, William and Mary, Queen Anne, Georgian, Victorian and 1930s rooms.

This week the exhibition area at the end of the series of almshouses-cum-galleries will be given over to an exhibition about the 1950s, which will eventually become the essence of a permanent new gallery.

The Regency Room will be refurbished, and will show to better effect the cabinet of curiosities of the 18th-century diarist John Evelyn, acquired for the museum by Mr Rodgers's predecessor, the late Jeffrey Daniels, who stocked it by following the record of contents left by Evelyn.

Mr Rodgers hopes to appoint a housekeeper, who will clean each room using the materials of the day. There will also be a gardener doing much the same in the gardens. Frederick Horniman was a tea magnate who liked to visit the sources of his wealth, and

in the course of his travels he became an amateur ethnographer and natural historian. He kept his collections in his house, but they grew so much that he built a museum. Once stocked, he gave it to London.

Now it attracts more than 200,000 visitors a year. David Bostan, its director, has gradually brought it up to date without taking away the essence of the Horniman. The museum's various wings, Frederick put at its centre is still there, and children compare their weight with it as they did at the turn of the century.

"We want to make it even more of a living museum by addressing conservation and environment issues," Mr Bostan says. Last year, at a cost of £400,000, English Heritage shifted the splendid conservatory from the Horniman family home in South Croydon to the Horniman. "We propose to house a collection of tropical butterflies there to relate to our study on the African rainforests. That will link with the new aquarium room, already started, which will include fish from the rainforests."

Mr Bostan gets a grant of £2.1 million for 1990-91, compared with about £1 million for the previous year. "We have to look elsewhere for sources of money, and we've done well in getting funding for our new exhibition about Nigerian tribesmen. We've still got to get confirmation of adequate resources after 1990-91. I cannot see the future yet," he says, "but we have made a good beginning."

COLLECTING

Dressing up

A SMALL survival from a more elegant age comes to auction next week from the workshop of a former dressmaker to Queen Mary and other members of the Royal family. Old lace, embroidery, offcuts of rich dress materials and patterns from the Thirties will draw dealers and collectors to Henry Aldridge's sale-room in Devizes, Wiltshire.

The owner of the 600-700 lots began her career as a needlewoman with Handley-Seymour, a court dressmaker. "She worked on the gown worn by Queen Mary for her silver wedding anniversary and the robes for the 1937 coronation," says Henry Aldridge, the auctioneer.

There are 40 bundles of fabric, mainly silk and satin, and two boxes of old lace. The fabrics are estimated at between £20-£30 a lot. There is a designer's dummy, some art deco pincushions and some of the dressmakers' own clothes estimated at about £100.

Two items will not be auctioned, however — her client book and a signed photograph of Queen Mary. These help set the tone for two other specialist sales, at Christie's, South Kensington, also on Tuesday, and Phillips in Edinburgh, on Friday.

The most desirable items in the first sale are the needlework tools, including two tape measures, one in the form of a

fish and the other modelled on a coronation coach (£100-£150).

There will be a good range of curtains and table linen, including a table-cloth dating from the Crimean War (£200-£300).

A similar mixture is on offer in Edinburgh. "Antique lace is very collectable at the moment, and a lot of it finds its way back to Belgium," said Lisa Mumford, Phillips' specialist in Scotland.

A lot of 18th-century brocades are bought, to be copied or adapted to modern taste. Lace goes into collectors' or is matched to special clothes. Both houses offer period frocks, and at its summer sale Phillips will have an example by Norman Hartnell from 1930. Made of floor-length ivory satin, it is embroidered with tiny pearls, diamonds and gold thread.

John Shaw

Henry Aldridge & Sons, Broomfield House, Epsom, Surrey (0380 830181). Viewing: Mon 3.30-7pm, Tues 8.30-10am. Sale: The Corn Exchange, Devizes, Tues 10am.

Christie's, South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (01-581 7611). Viewing: Mon 3.30-7pm, Tues 8.30-11.30am. Sale: Tues 2pm.

Phillips, 65 George Street, Edinburgh (031 225 2266). Viewing: Wed & Thurs 9.30am-4.30pm. Sale: Fri 11am.

SALES GUIDE

EUROPOTS: European ceramics and glass, from a Royal Worcester porcelain rose jar and cover by Ricketts (2400-2600), to a late-17th century Calabrese Malacca vase (2300-2500). Henry Spencer & Sons, 20 The Square, Bedford, Northamptonshire (0777 706833). Viewing: Tues 10am-3pm. Sale: Wed 11am.

CARPET COLLECTION: Eastern rugs and carpets, including a Bakhtiari carpet, 20ft x 11ft, at £3,000-£4,000. Sotheby's, Summers Place, Bellinghurs, West Sussex (0403 753533). Viewing: today 9.30am-12.30pm, Mon 9am-10am. Sale: Mon 10am.

ORIENTAL CERAMICS: The Chinese blue and white section has treasures from modestly estimated dishes at £30-£50, to a hexagonal Qinghai period vase in Ming style (£2,000-£3,000), from an Abercrombie house. Phillips, 65 George Street,

Edinburgh (031 225 2266). Viewing: Wed and Thurs 9.30am-4.30pm. Sale: Fri 11am.

BRITISH AND CONTINENTAL: Glass and ceramics, including Staffordshire spinnakers with iron-red markings and gilt collars (£150-£200). Christie's, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (01-581 7611). Viewing: Mon 5-7pm, Tues and Wed 9am-5pm. Sale: Thurs 2pm.

STERLING STUFF: Liberty silver rose bowl set with amethysts, Birmingham 1908 (£1,500-£2,000), good Georgian and late Victorian table candlesticks (£700-£1,000) and a table centrepiece by Edward & John Barnard, London 1864 (£4,000-£6,000). Bonham's, Montpelier Street, Knightsbridge, London SW7 (01-584 8161). Viewing: Mon 5-7pm, Tues 9am-10.30am. Sale: Tues 11am.

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THE TIMES/PM ENVIRONMENT AWARD

Your chance to pick the winner

Once again, *The Times* and BBC Radio Four's *PM* programme invite readers and listeners to choose a winner of our joint £5,000 Environment Award, from the five finalists whose profiles have been published in this newspaper and broadcast on *PM* every day this week.

Voting will be by post, over the next two weeks, and closes at first post on Friday, April 20. Votes should be sent to: *The Times/PM Environment Award*, 16 Whitefriars Street, London EC8 2NG, either by using the form printed below or by writing on a postcard. If you use a postcard, please use only the candidate's number and location, thus: 5 Quantocks. Votes are restricted to one per voter and must carry the voter's full name and address.

Below we offer a reminder of the candidates who emerged from the 167 entries: a tree-planting group in the Highlands of Scotland, an oil refinery worker who has created a nature reserve inside

the refinery, a Leeds conservation group fighting to save their valley, schoolchildren in Hull helping to save a colony of frogs, and a Somerset sheep-farmer watching over wildlife as well as sheep.

As in 1989, judging was far from easy. The judges were Sir Crispin Tickell, the British Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and David Astor, chairman of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, aided by Andrew Neal, head of the BBC Natural History Unit, Kathleen Carragher, assistant editor of *PM*, and Michael McCarthy, environment correspondent of *The Times*.

Numerous entries showed evidence of ambitious work for the environment, often with stunning results. The Loch Garry Tree Group, for example, was rivalled by Edward Cadden, who, in his

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eighties, continues to plant trees on the almost bare island of Harris. Bob Hopkins with his reserve at Conoco was judged against, among many others, John Humphreys from Bottisham in Cambridgeshire, who has created his own marsh and attracted rare marshland birds to it, or the Perring Estate Community Garden at Bow in east London, where residents in a block of flats have created their own flower garden around an old air-raid shelter.

The work of the Kirkstall Valley Campaign in Leeds could be contrasted with that of the Saughall and Chester Badger Group, a professional campaign to protect badgers living in the path of the new A41-A55 link road around Chester, while the efforts of the children of the Hull Watch group were rivalled, for example, by the 30 children of the

village school at Shute, near Axminster in Devon, who have taken on the role of environmental guardians of their village.

And when it came to farming, Janet White was by no means alone in bringing conservation into her practice of agriculture. Among several impressive entries, for instance, Paul Lysley of Colham Farm, at Castle Combe in Wiltshire, has created his own downland nature reserves.

Many other entries were powerful — the wild bird

sanctuary run by Mrs Zalasiewicz at Greenmount in Lancashire, the huge amount of recording of the plants, ferns and fungi of the Lancaster area done by Len and Pat Livermore, the semi-professional recycling centre set up by Richard Boden, an agricultural management student at Wye College in Kent.

But the judges had to make a choice. We now invite you to make the final choice, and pick a winner.

Michael McCarthy

Trees for the Highlands

THE bare heather hills of the Scottish Highlands form the wrong image of Scotland, because they are a monument to environmental failure, according to Ben Greer and the Loch Garry Tree Group. The group feels they are not natural, but the impoverished result of cutting down the ancient broadleaved forest of birch, alder and rowan which once covered the Grampians, and much of which has disappeared only in the last few hundred years. By extensive planting, Mr Greer and his fellow enthusiasts have shown that broadleaved trees will grow freely at 1,400ft on the shores of Loch Garry in Perthshire, and feel that the Highlands reforested would be an infinitely richer place. They cheerfully plant in all weathers, snow included, and hope their unorthodox vision will grow as strongly as their trees are currently doing.



Ben Greer: reforesting Loch Garry

Wildlife in a refinery

BOB Hopkins, a worker at the Conoco oil refinery outside Immingham on Humber, has created a nature reserve out of a forgotten piece of land inside the refinery boundary. The site, which had lain untouched for 20 years, contains a 15-acre ashwood, Hooton's Cove. Under Mr Hopkins's direction, paths have been cut through the undergrowth, a pond has been dug, observation hides have been erected and a small herd of red deer has been brought in. Children from five local primary schools visit the reserve, which feels as if it is deep in the countryside, to catch glimpses of the deer, pond-dip for tadpoles, and watch birds, flowers and insects. In an area of heavy industry with few countryside amenities, the children find this corner of a chemical plant an incomparable aid to understanding the natural world.



Bob Hopkins: creating a reserve

Green heart of a city

THE Kirkstall Valley Campaign is an action group set up by local people in a suburb of Leeds. Its aim is to fight the threat posed by massive redevelopment to the valley of the River Aire. Although the valley has some derelict parts, it still remains a remarkably green corridor going into the heart of the inner city. There is much wildlife and attractive old buildings there, all of which would have been obliterated in concrete with supermarkets, thousands of car-parking spaces and a plastic dinosaur park were it not for the campaign. Members of the action group have gone beyond mere opposition and drawn up a comprehensive redevelopment plan of their own, taking account of a wide range of local opinion, which would allow for new housing and industry while preserving the green spaces; they hope it will play a key role in the valley's future.



Linda Raine: Kirkstall campaigner

Frog Patrol at the ready

BRITAIN'S largest colony of common frogs is to be found on Anlaby Common, just outside Hull. Although frogs are increasingly disappearing from their former habitats, and the common is home to up to 90,000 of them, it has no official protection under the wildlife laws. Its only protectors are the children of the Hull group of Watch, the junior wildlife club of the Royal Society for Nature Conservation. On damp spring evenings the children go out on Frog Patrol, armed with torches and buckets, to rescue the frogs as they attempt to get to their spawning grounds on the common. To reach the common they have to cross a busy main road, often getting squashed in the process, by passing cars and lorries. The children rescue the spawn in dry springs, as well as saving hundreds of individual frogs.



Frog Patrol: children of Watch

Farming for protection

JANET White is a shepherd in the Quantock Hills of Somerset and runs a sheep farm, which is remarkably rich in wildlife. It harbours rare birds including nightjars and ravens, more than 200 different varieties of wild flowers, many uncommon butterflies and animals such as red deer, pigmy shrews and dormice. Although Mrs White is a working farmer with a heavy load and a modest income, she has refused to intensify her farming methods; the care she shows for her animals is extended to the wildlife she has inherited, all of which is encouraged. Hedges are replanted, bogs are left to the flowers, nest boxes are put up, the use of chemical sprays is ignored, and new habitats are created. Over the past quarter century, while much of the English countryside's wildlife has been ravaged, the part in Mrs White's care has grown richer.



Janet White: farming with nature

VOTING FORM



Please vote for one candidate only, by ticking the appropriate box. Fill in your name, address and telephone number, cut out this form and send it to *The Times/PM Environment Award*, 16 Whitefriars Street, London EC8 2NG. Votes must be received by first post on Friday April 20.

1 LOCH GARRY ☐ 3 LEEDS ☐ 5 QUANTOCKS ☐
2 IMMINGHAM ☐ 4 HULL ☐

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CAMPUS

Left trots back at Blackpool

The slogan "Working for Students" is used by the National Union of Students to promote itself to its membership. After this week's NUS conference at Blackpool it should be changed to "Working for Nots and Trots".

The National Organization of Labour Students and hard left groups like Socialist Organizers (referred to generally by conference as Trots) have systematically seen to it that independent students did not get on to the full-time body of the NUS executive committee. These organizations are usually at each other's throats, but in order that Nols could retain the presidency, they did a deal with the Trots which effectively blocked the other candidates.

Cosmo Hawkes, a popular independent candidate, was a dangerous threat to the long-standing hold that Nols has maintained on the presidency. But to ensure the election of their candidate, Stephen Twigg, Nols sold out to the Trots.

Cosmo Hawkes claims that fewer than one per cent of students on campus are members of hard left groups such as Left Unity, Socialist Workers and Socialist Organization. But in Blackpool they won between them a third of the seats on the national executive council. The NUS has not been representative of students since the late 1960s because of its undemocratic structure. It has consistently

Will more groups disaffiliate from the NUS after this year's conference 'carve-up' by the left?

placed its own political antics above the interests of students, in general.

Students are regarded as voting fodder by the various political groupings, and despite repeated attempts by moderate students to get an effective national union, reform has failed every time.

The Blackpool conference resulted in a debate which paid lip-service to reform but in effect did nothing. It also

resulted in six moderate students, including four independents, being voted out as the various political factions played their game of espionage. Some of the delegates cannot be blamed. There was a large independent fringe meeting in response to the outcome of the conference, and many Nols members tore up their cards in disgust at their leadership.

An independent grouping called "Students for students"

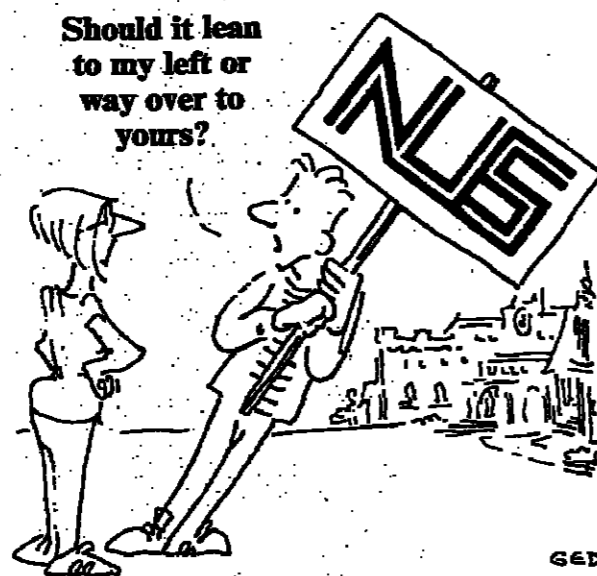
was set up about three years ago as a faction to beat all factions, again a response to events at conference. It lasted about a year but failed to unite student unionists, partly because of the enormous turnover of independent students going to conference, and partly because the delegates were too diverse in their views. Reform from within has therefore become virtually impossible, with the political groupings always able to do deals to ensure that they remain in power.

I suspect, because of this conference, we will see a great many more disaffiliation attempts in the coming year. Both soft left students and moderate Conservative students, including the Tory Reform Group of which I am a member, will unite, not to destroy student unionism as some hard-right students wish to do, but to reform it to make "working for students" a truthful slogan.

I hope that students recognize the inherent problems with the present structure of NUS and its long-standing history of maintaining the status quo, and do not get taken in by a bunch of political hacks more intent on securing their own political ends than doing anything for student unionism.

Richard Patientes

● The author is a student at Southampton University



GED

The Conservative Collegiate Forum answers its critics

The comments by Jacob Rees-Mogg (Campus, March 31) obscure the real nature of the Conservative Collegiate Forum (CCF). Despite the heated debate on campus over the introduction of student top-up loans and the community charge, the Conservative student organization is going through a period of expansion.

There are now 10,000 members in 100 branches nationwide. The 101st branch is likely to be Southwark College, hardly in the Conservative heartlands.

Tories top up with working-class blood

Conservative student activists tend to be on the Thatcherite wing of the party, because many are new to the cause and have been attracted by a political creed which champions individual responsibility, private ownership and reduced state activity.

These new recruits have tended to come increasingly

from working-class backgrounds, a fact which the old establishment Tories find distasteful.

The political debate on campus creates tough-minded Conservative student activists. The activities of militant student unions and of the Labour-run National Union of Students means that the

Conservatives have to defend their policies in the face of onslaught from a publicly financed socialist propaganda machine.

The CCF is at the forefront of debate. No doubt some policies may seem to be way off the political agenda at present. But so was privatization when Conservative students called for it in 1974, and so were student loans when they were first advocated.

Alex Aiken

● The author is national director of the Conservative Collegiate Forum

THE SUNDAY TIMES

BRITAIN'S RICHEST 200

The most revealing guide to wealth in this country ever published.

Their total wealth amounts to nearly 10 per cent of Britain's total gross product.

Five of them are women. Thirty-five have been to Eton. Six of them are immigrants. Some would rather not appear on the list.

Meet Britain's richest 200, in *The Sunday Times*.

TOMORROW

THE TIMES COOK

Sweet art of palm reading

In honour of Palm Sunday tomorrow, Frances Bissell passes on some exotic uses for coconuts, dates, figs and bananas

DIANA LEADSETTER

In many parts of England, Palm Sunday used to be known as Fig Sunday, when it was the custom to eat figs, boiled fig puddings or fig pies. This is said to be connected with the description of the barren fig tree after Christ's entry into Jerusalem.

It is actually the palm tree which provided me with the ideas for today's recipes, or rather, several types of palm tree. Recently, in Kuala Lumpur, we were served on successive days a coconut tart and a banana tart, very different from each other and both extremely good. Bernard Langlais, the Kuala Lumpur Regent's French *pâtissier*, told me how to make them, and I pass on these recipes, including his recipe for sweet shortcrust pastry. I have added one of my own for date tart. If you want to revive the custom of eating figs on Fig Sunday, then this recipe would easily adapt to figs. Use unsulphured ones if possible; cut off the stalk end, quarter them, and soak for 20 to 30 minutes in hot water before draining and drying them.

Three palm trees are needed to make my favourite Malaysian pudding, *gula melaka*: sago from the sago palm (although you can use tapioca), jaggery or palm sugar from the nippah or sugar palm, and coconut milk from the coconut palm. The sago is cooked in water until soft and translucent and packed into oiled moulds. When set, it is turned out into a dish containing palm sugar syrup and thick coconut milk is poured over the top. It is a lovely cooling sweet after spicy food.

This soup recipe is quite unusual, a savoury coconut soup. It sounds very fashionable and modern, the sort of thing you might serve hot or chilled. In fact, it comes from Eliza Acton's *Modern Cookery* of 1845.

Coconut soup

(Serves 6 to 8)

2pt/1.5l chicken or vegetable stock, plus any gravy
3oz/85g desiccated or freshly grated coconut
pinch of ground mace
1oz/30g riceflour or cornflour
½pt/140ml single cream
salt
pepper or cayenne

Put the stock and coconut in a saucepan with the mace, and simmer, covered, for an hour. Press through a fine sieve into a clean saucepan. Mix the flour with a little water, and stir it into the soup. Bring to the boil, and then add the cream and season to taste. Miss Acton suggests that for those who do not like a cream soup, wine, sherry, or port would make a suitable alternative. I would use two small glasses of dry Amontillado sherry. Let it simmer for 10 minutes or so before serving, to allow the alcohol to evaporate.

This next recipe also uses coconut, or rather the milk which can be extracted from it. This is not the same thing as the clear liquid inside the nut. To make coconut milk, half fill a 1pt jug with freshly grated or desiccated coconut. Put it into a bowl with a pint of very hot water. Let it steep for 20 minutes or so, and then blend it for 30 seconds. Pour through a fine sieve, and press hard to extract as much milk as possible. Apart from making a refreshing drink or the *gula melaka*, it can be used to make a sorbet or an ice-

cream, or as a cooking liquid in place of stock or wine. A richer version is made by using less water or more coconut. If you let the milk stand overnight, a solid layer of fat or "cream" will settle on the top. This can be skimmed off and used as a cooking medium in which to fry other ingredients. It is worth remembering, however, that coconut oil is very high in saturated fats — 90 per cent, compared with 16 per cent saturated fat in olive oil and 11 per cent in sunflower oil. Make half a pint of fairly thick milk for this recipe. It is a dish that cooks in a matter of minutes if you have everything to hand. Serve it as a starter or as a main course with rice. Small queen scallops can be added, as can chunks of monkfish or salmon.

Prawns in coconut sauce

(Serves 6)

1 medium onion

2-3 cloves of garlic, or to taste
1tbsp groundnut or sunflower oil
2 stalks lemon grass, optional
2in/5cm cinnamon stick
4 cloves
2-3tbsp freshly grated ginger
3oz/85g mangosteen or broccoli florets
3oz/85g shiitake, oyster or button mushrooms, sliced or not, as you wish
3oz/85g beansprouts, blanched
2lb/900g prawns in the shell
1tbsp soy sauce
1tbsp toasted sesame oil
1tbsp rice vinegar or coconut vinegar
½pt/280ml coconut milk
chopped coriander or chives

Peel and finely chop the onion and garlic, and fry gently in the oil until transparent. Slice the lemon

grass into three or four pieces if using it, and add it to the pan with the cinnamon, cloves and ginger. Cook the spices until the fragrant oils are released, after about five minutes, then add the vegetables. Stir fry for eight to 10 minutes, adding 2-3 tablespoons of water to stop the ingredients sticking. Add the prawns, and fry for three or four minutes. Stir in the soy sauce, sesame oil and vinegar, and then the coconut milk. Simmer gently for a few minutes so that an exchange of flavours can take place. Stir in the herbs and serve in a heated dish. If you like spicy food, a sliced chilli, from which you have first removed the seeds, can be fried with the spices at the beginning.

Banana tart

(Serves 6 to 8)

6 bananas
juice of 1 lemon
3tbsp rum

7oz/200g shortcrust or sweet pastry
4 eggs
5oz/140g icing sugar, sifted
7oz/200g ground almonds
1-2tbsp flaked almonds

Slice the bananas, and soak them in the lemon juice and rum for an hour. Line a 9in/23cm flan ring or mould with the pastry, and bake blind at 200°C/400°F/gas mark 6 for 10 minutes. Remove the foil and beans or whatever you use to weight the pastry, and return it to the oven for five minutes. Remove and allow it to cool slightly. Mix the eggs and icing sugar together, and stir in the ground almonds. Put the drained banana slices in the pie dish, mix the remaining rum and lemon liquid with the egg mixture, and pour it over the bananas. Scatter the flaked almonds on top, and bake it at 180°C/350°F/gas mark 4 for 30 minutes or until the filling has set. Serve warm or cold.

Coconut tart

(Serves 6 to 8)

7oz/200g shortcrust or sweet pastry
4 eggs
1oz/30g cornflour
5oz/140g castor sugar
a generous ¼pt/140ml single cream

5oz/140g desiccated coconut

Line a 9in/23cm tart tin with the pastry, and bake blind as in the previous recipe. Beat the eggs, cornflour and sugar together, and then add the cream and the coconut. Mix well and pour into the pastry case. Bake at 180°C/350°F/gas mark 4 for 30 minutes, until set and the top is lightly browned. Serve warm or cold.

Date tart

(Serves 6 to 8)

7oz/200g shortcrust or sweet pastry
4 eggs
¼lb/110g castor or light muscovado sugar
¼pt/140ml single cream
3oz/85g ground almonds
¼lb/230g whole dates

Line a 9in/23cm tart tin with the pastry, and bake blind as in the banana tart recipe. Beat the eggs, sugar and cream, then stir in the ground almonds. Halve the dates lengthways, and remove the stone. Arrange the dates in the pastry case, and pour on the custard. Bake at 180°C/350°F/gas mark 4 for 30 minutes or until the filling has set. Serve warm or cold, dusted with icing sugar, if liked.

Sweet pastry

(Lines a 9in/23cm tart tin)

3oz/85g softened butter
¼lb/110g castor sugar
1 egg
7oz/200g flour, sifted
pinch of salt

Cream the butter and sugar until light. Sifted and egg and then the flour and salt. Lightly work the mixture together until it binds to a dough. Cover and refrigerate for at least an hour before use.

● Note: All these recipes can be used for individual tarts, and the quantities given, including the pastry, will make 24 x 2½in/6cm tarts.

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COFFEE

Thoughts of a realist

I HAVE tried it with a stopwatch, and I know. Instant coffee is no quicker to make than real. Even grinding from beans takes scarcely more time than opening a jar, and after that it is just a matter of applying boiling water to powder in both cases. The results are incomparable — yet nine-tenths of the coffee sold in Britain is "instant".

It sells, I suppose, on ignorance and laziness. Instant coffee got a head start in Britain because we were primarily a tea-drinking nation, with no strong tradition of coffee appreciation. Even now, many people believe that real coffee has to be lengthily brewed in a percolator, or that it can be kept stewing indefinitely on a hot-plate without tasting brackish.

A restaurant which serves instant coffee would know it risks disgrace, yet thousands are happy to serve real coffee which has been ruined, and is much more actively atrocious than instant coffee, which is merely dreary.

The good news is that coffee drinkers' preferences are apparently not dictated entirely by the televisually serialized courtship of a woman with a mouth too full of teeth; or by the pretence that the only difference between real and instant is the sound of the percolator perking.

True, the Nescafé Gold Blend campaign, centred on Sharon Maughan and her beaux, has not only won prizes but ballooned the product's sales, while Red Mountain's advertisements, in which the people making the coffee supply noises by gargling and slurping, have doubled its market share in less than two years.

The good news, though, is that where two-thirds of our coffee imports were of the coarse and inferior robusta varieties and only one-third quality arabicas, those proportions are now reversed. This is mildly encouraging, which is what you could say, too, about the emergence of "instant", or more properly freeze-dried, brands such as Cap Colombie and Alta Rica, which are 100 per cent arabica.

There was never much excuse for preferring lower quality coffee, because the price difference on premium grades has always been much less with coffee than they are, for example, with tea or wine.

Typically, arabica coffee is only about a fifth more expensive than robusta; even Jamaican Blue Mountain beans, the most famous of all, command about four times the going rate for more common coffees. But

whereas in French supermarkets the coffees have long been clearly marked as arabica, robusta, or as blends of the two, the average British consumer still does not know the difference.

Do not suppose that the recent collapse in the commodity price of coffee, while ruinous for Third World farmers, will necessarily benefit British consumers. The original price of the beans is, in any case, a small element of the final price of the coffee, compared with the mark-ups imposed by dealers, processors, packers and retailers. And while drinking so much instant coffee has little or no effect on the speed with which the cup is ready, it certainly slows up the arrival of any price reductions.

The reason for this is that instant coffee is not a fresh, perishable product, but a heavily processed one with a protracted shelf life. Falls in the wholesale price take at least six to nine months to show up on retailers' shelves, if they ever do. This time the slump in value of the pound may serve to postpone the price reduction indefinitely.

As with most other things, though, there are good grounds for paying more and drinking less. There is medical evidence to link excessive consumption of coffee with headaches, irritability, sleeplessness and heart disease. And drinking decaffeinated coffee has as little point as drinking non-alcoholic wine.

Once you start to experiment with coffee, it can be dangerously addictive, with so many varieties available, so many different degrees of roasting, and so many ways of preparing the final brew. You can spend as much as £500 for an extravagance of a home espresso, or make do with a spoon and a jug.

My present preference is for high roast Colombian, and I have abandoned the business of detonating the daily blast of coffee by pushing the plunger on a glass *cafétière* for the more instant pleasure provided by an Italian screw-together, dual-chambered metal jug, which forces the boiling water through a central section holding the coffee powder and into the top half for pouring.

I should mention, though, a use for instant coffee. I hear that if you mix it with water to make a thick paste, it is miraculously good as a dressing for cold sores.

Robin Young

DRINK

The wine trade is facing a rocky future but, ever optimistic, it can still find reasons to be cheerful, Jane MacQuitty writes

For better, for worse

At the moment the wine trade feels it has little reason to rejoice. John Major's budget, with its increases of 7p on a bottle of wine and 11p on sparkling wine, is not the problem — although I don't know how the whisky trade will cope with the extra 54p on spirits, on top of the already punishing £4.73 per bottle currently paid in duty.

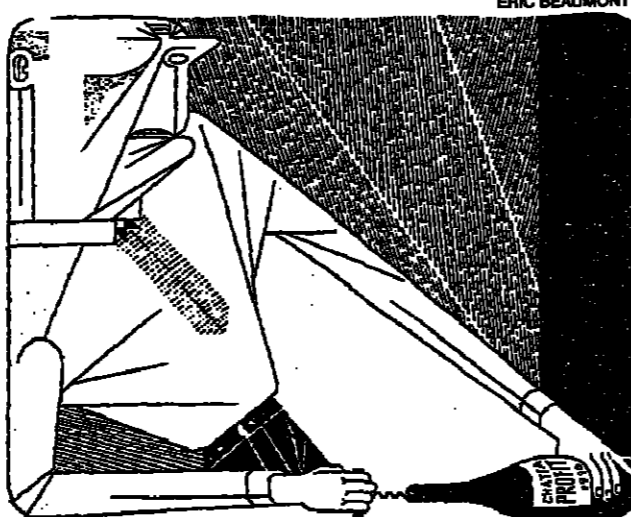
The wine trade's woes are more to do with the hefty price increases passed on from their suppliers, particularly the French. These increases, along with those from West Germany, have been aggravated by the low sterling rate against the franc (down 14 per cent since last August) and the Deutschmark. These two factors have resulted in one of the most difficult purchasing periods British wine buyers have known. Kim Tidy, wine buyer for the Thrasher and Wine Rack outlets, feels: "It is an absolute nightmare. You are faced with price increases of a minimum of 8 per cent going up to 30 per cent, on top of a currency devaluation fluctuating between 12 per cent and 15 per cent."

Oddbins' buyers feel the same way, and a few weeks back were hoping that sterling would stabilize. Now Oddbins and other UK outlets have found that many of their suppliers are reluctant to quote prices at the lower end of the business, because of the uncertainty in the British market. Sainsbury's wine department agrees. Allan Cheeseman, director of off-licence buying, said in his wine newsletter this month: "Currency, too, seems linked to current events and the dramatically lower levels of the Deutschmark and franc

are causing all sorts of difficulties, as we, in the company of the rest of the trade, no doubt, wrestle with all of these inflationary pressures."

All this has been exacerbated by rumours that Sainsbury, still the largest wine retailer in the country with at least 17 per cent of the market, overestimated its Christmas sales and is awash with wine. This means that everyone else is likely to try to maintain prices, until the supermarket giant gets through its backlog of wines, bought when sterling was stronger. At this stage, wine traders anticipate, the public will be ready for the new prices, and some fairly alarming increases could well be seen in the high street. Any wine traders with shaky finances after a miserable Christmas season will find it difficult to continue.

With a rocky ride ahead, this spring is not, perhaps, the right time for wine merchants' celebrations. But the International Exhibition Co-operative Wine Society is still going strong after 116 years. The Wine Society rarely gives itself, or its 72,000 members, a pat on the back, but has done so this spring with the launch of eight new celebration wines. These have been chosen to mark the opening of the Society's vast, new temperature-controlled warehouse at its headquarters in Stevenage. This new cellar will mean that the Wine Society can store 3 million bottles at the ideal temperature of 55°F,



ERIC BEALMONT

ensuring its continued reputation as the biggest wine club in Britain and the biggest stockholder of wine.

What impressed me most about the Wine Society's eight

WINE BUYS

● 1985 Deinhard Klüsserath Bruderschaft Riesling Kabinett, Peter Dominik and Bottoms Up, £3.29

● Inexpensive German white wines have had such a bad Press recently, that it is a relief to be able to recommend a good one. This sweet, flowery-grapey wine has a pleasing scent and good bite and backbone.

● 1986 Chateau Puygauraud, The Victoria Wine Company, £5.99

Francis property that I tasted. François Thienpoint from Puygauraud explained that his chateau, just like everyone else in Bordeaux, has had occasional problems with corks, and the next bottle I tasted was a glorious, rich, cassia-like mouthful. Try it.

● 1987 Fetzer Valley Oak Fumé, Tesco, £5.05

Gassinot, is nowhere near as good as the Celebration Twenty Year Old Tawny Port, with its fine walnut-like flavours (£15). The best is the glorious '82 Celebration Champagne from Alfred Gratien, way ahead of the waxy-flowery '86 Crémant de Loire bubbly from a sister firm (£6.75).

Alfred Gratien is the champagne house that supplies the Wine Society with its excellent own-label bubbly, but this celebration offering is infinitely superior: a wonderfully rich, biscuity-nutty champagne (£16.65 a bottle until April 17, when it becomes £19.95). The Society's '82 Celebration White Burgundy from Remoissenet (£9.75), with its oaky, toasted hazelnut-like style, is delicious too, as is its more mature partner from the same producer, the '79 Celebration Red Burgundy (£9.75), with its mature, gamey, liquorice-like palate. Claret lovers will enjoy the non-vintage Celebration Pomerol (£7.85), from quality Bordeaux merchants J. P. Moueix, whose moreish mix of leather, tar and bitter dark chocolate is a classic, as is this Celebration Margaux (£8.25), from Chateau Siran, with its heady scent and oriental spice palate. The Society has a mixed case, containing two bottles of each of the splendid celebration wines (excluding ports) for £115.

I wish I could be as enthusiastic about The Victoria Wine Company's celebration offerings this month — a trio of

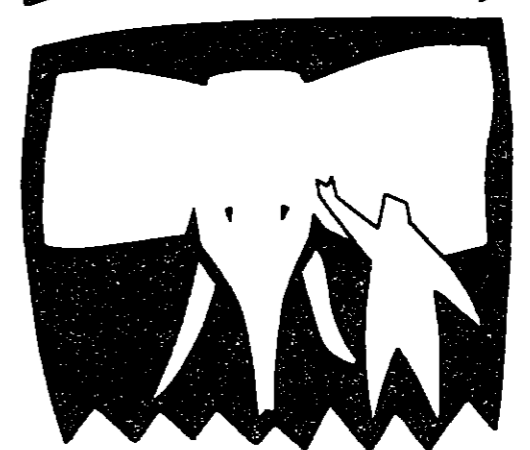
clarets and one champagne, bought to mark the company's 125th anniversary. I have no complaints about the clarets' handsome labels, which are reprints of the 1860s originals, but the wines within are unbelievably dreary.

All three come from Patrice Calvet, who broke away from his Bordeaux family company some years ago to set up on his own. He should know better: the soft, grassy Bordeaux Supérieur (£3.59) is boring, while the St Estéphe (£5.99) is bland beyond belief, and the '85 Chateau Les Hauts de Pontet (£7.99), second wine of fifth-growth Pontet Canet, has a dismal, herbaceous style, not worth the money asked. I was left equally cold by the ordinary, yeasty fruit of the non-vintage Philpottat Royale Réserve, the anniversary champagne (£11.99).

Instead, go to Victoria Wine for the reasonably-priced lemon and lime-like fruit of its South Australia Rhine Riesling (£2.99), which I mentioned last week. This Australian white wine is good value, as is its spicy, albeit quirky, red South Australia Cabernet Sauvignon-Shiraz sister (£2.99).

Tesco continues to tread on Sainsbury's tail in terms of supermarket wine sales, and there is plenty on its shelves over which to enthuse. One of Tesco's latest arrivals is a cheap Vin de Pays des Côtes de Gascogne, bought from the Bordeaux merchant Yvon Mau. This non-vintage red is given away at just £1.99 a bottle. I thoroughly enjoyed its light, smoky, fragrant scent and berry fruit, reminiscent of redcurrants, and made from Cabernet and Merlot grapes.

ELEFRIENDS



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A man who could make Mrs Thatcher look lazy

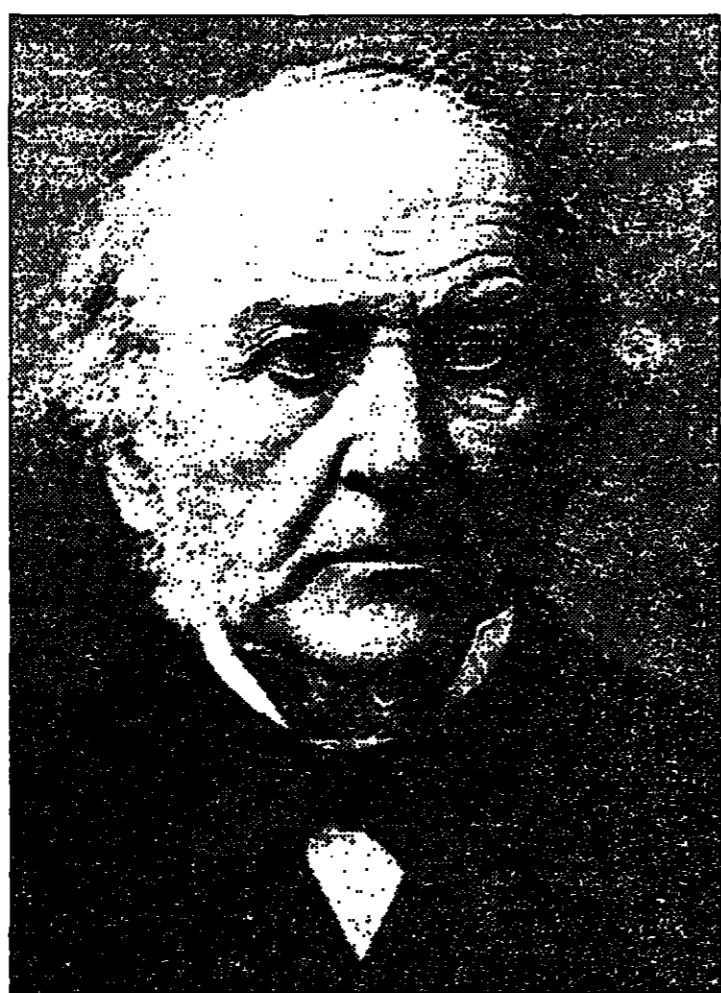
John Campbell
reviews a
Victorian edifice

Gladstone's diaries are on the same heroic scale as his life. They are not of course strictly speaking diaries at all in the reflective documentary style of Pepys or Crossman — just a bare daily record of meetings held, letters written, and books read, with very occasionally a brief comment. Read consecutively they are more or less impenetrable. Yet the very accumulation of detail makes them one of the major documents of the 19th century. Of no other politician save perhaps Churchill could we possibly want to know so much over so long a span. But Gladstone represents the Victorian mind at such a high level of engagement with his times — in his sheer physical and intellectual energy exhibiting all the Victorian virtues at their highest pitch — that the whole century seems contained in his curt jottings.

Publishing them represents an equally heroic commitment by the Clarendon Press. Twenty-three years after Volume One appeared, we are now up to Volumes 10 and 11, and the climactic years of the second and third premierships, when Gladstone's dominance of the political scene was almost total. Augmented with Cabinet minutes and letters, they form an unprecedentedly complete picture of 19th-century government at work.

Yet almost as important to each pair of volumes as the diary itself is Colin Matthew's magisterial introductory essay — in this instance 165 dense but lucid pages. Without this guidance, pointing up the themes and the plums in the forbidding text, the ordinary reader would be lost. Cumulatively these introductions are forming a superb thematic biography in their own right, the first volume appeared three years ago, and a second will doubtless follow when the whole mighty project is complete. There are still 12 years and one more premiership to go.

Gladstone as Prime Minister in his mid-seventies is an awesome phenomenon — simultaneously Prime Minister, Leader of the House of Commons, and (until 1882) Chancellor of the Exchequer as well. He also personally took all major legislation through the House. It should not be imagined, because the reach of government was smaller and its exercise more intimate, that the physical burden of these three or four jobs was any less than the equivalent would be today. Gladstone was served by a very small staff, and wrote most of his letters by hand himself. In addition he read immensely widely — everything from history and theology to the latest fiction (George Eliot, Henry James) and Richard Burton's translation of the Kama Sutra (on which, sadly, he made no comment). He went to the theatre regularly, and frequented country house weekends, where he talked incessantly, with a volubility and range that exhausted his hearers. From Balmoral he walked to the top of Ben Macdui and back in 7½ hours. And he still found time



Gladstone: his speeches still astonish with their social radicalism

for his nocturnal rescue work with prostitutes. Mrs Thatcher is a slacker by comparison.

He constantly wanted and intended to retire. It was his colleagues who would not let him. They were not just being diplomatic. Unlike Churchill at the same age, Gladstone dominated so completely that he really was irreplaceable.

One reason for wanting to retire was the Queen, who did her best to make his life intolerable, writing him sometimes as many as six

responsibility of Government." It was a responsibility he accepted as part of the divine dispensation, but it was not one he was anxious to increase. He positively welcomed German ambitions in Africa ("I tell you I look with satisfaction, sympathy and joy upon the expansion of Germany in these desert places of the earth") as tending to limit the opportunities for expansion of the British colonies.

His conversion to Irish Home Rule was a gradual elimination of alternatives, not a dramatic reversal. It was in intention not a radical but a conservative policy, the last resort of Gladstone's mission to pacify Ireland and thus preserve the Union. Paradoxically, however, the great communicator of his age omitted to explain his thinking to the Liberal party until it was too late: the party split and the Bill fell.

This historic failure "constituted" (Gladstone's own phrase) British politics for the next 30 years, preventing the development of an active state at just the moment it was needed to combat the onset of Britain's relative economic decline. Yet ironically no one welcomed this result more thoroughly than Gladstone. As a good Victorian he believed in the minimal state. His Governments knew more about the Egyptian economy than they did about the British. Yet at the same time he understood with penetrating clarity the entrenched power of privilege in British politics. His speeches can still astonish by their social radicalism and sheer moral force.

It is no wonder that an enterprising Tory manufacturer responded to the craze for Gladstone plates and Toby jugs with a chamber pot decorated with his picture — on the inside.

One of the pleasures of reading poetry is the way it sharpens our sense of words by using them to the full depth and stretch of their meaning. The word which surprises but seems somehow to "fit", setting up echoes of absolute meaning in the mind, is the right word. Thus, when Shakespeare has Laertes tell Ophelia that nature, crescent, does not grow alone/ In thews and bulk, we feel the full power of that odd perfect word crescent, holding as it does memory of its Latin origin in crescere, to grow, to mature physically; and when Emily Dickinson writes:

Essential oils are wrong:
The altar from the rose
Is not expressed by suns alone,
It is the gift of screws

the abstract verb expressed has been given back its metaphorical root-richness, its verbal action, in the sense of "pressed out".

This sort of intense linguistic accuracy is, at best, the natural working of poetic thought; in the state of inspiration a poet inhabits words, means what he says to the point where he lives in his saying. Wallace Stevens has a poem about it, called "Dinner Bell in the Woods":

He was facing phantasmas when
the bell rang.
The picnic of children came
running then,
In a burst of shouts, under the
trees

A poet of the heart

POETRY
Robert Nye

OPUS POSTHUMOUS
By Wallace Stevens
Faber, £27.50

And through the air. The smaller ones
Came tinkling on the grass to the table
Where the fattest women belled
the glass.
The point of it was the way he
heard it.
In the green, outside the door of
phantasmas.

A poet with that kind of critical insight into his own workings is likely to write a very hard, spare, chaste poetry, a poetry from which most imperfections of language and immaturities of feeling have been burned away, a poetry which questions itself dryly as it goes on. Stevens's greatest work does not

disappoint that expectation, though I confess to preferring his shorter and fleshier poems, largely the product of his early years, over those long philosophical meditations he produced when the erotic drive of such a volume as *Harmolium* (1923) was long spent.

Opus Posthumous, now offered in a revised, enlarged, and corrected edition, edited by Milton J. Bates, should not be missed by anyone who has ever responded to such poems as "The Emperor of Ice Cream" or "Dance of the Macabre Mice". This book was first published two years after the poet's death, in 1957, and some of the early fragments are at least as good as most of the stuff in his monumental *Collected Poems*. For the new edition, Professor Bates has assembled virtually all the uncollected verse and prose that Stevens wrote for publication after his Harvard years, together with more than three dozen pieces still in manuscript at the time of his death. Stevens emerges from the volume as what his admirers have long known he was: a witty poet of the human heart. He sometimes submits his experience of love too consciously to his intelligence — not, like Donne, in passionate immediacy of wit, but rather pedantically, as one who would avoid the mixedness of his feelings by referring them to philosophical process. Then the result is more arid than austere. But the best of him hears that dinner bell in the woods, and makes us hear it.

How

Peter Ackroyd looks
and the woman who

The fate of the true poet is a hard one, at least according to T. S. Eliot. Robert Graves is perhaps one of the best examples on record of a writer who came close to immolating himself on the altar of his art — a suicide attempt, nervous prostration, and spiritual desolation were only aspects of his slow pilgrimage towards self-fulfilment. This second volume of his biography opens with the young Graves about to sail for Egypt, in order to take up an appointment as professor of English; it ends with the prospect of a second and happier marriage. In between, there was Laura Riding.

She had travelled to Egypt with him as a secretary, in the company of his wife and children. But she herself was a fine poet and did not remain for long in that attendant role: the history of this volume is the history of her long, complicated, but ultimately fruitful relationship with the man who would eventually write *The White Goddess* in oblique homage to her profound influence upon his development as a writer.

From Egypt they quickly returned to England, where the resulting ménage had the glamour and strangeness of a household unit among the damp and gloomy civilisations of St Peter's Square, Hammersmith. That is no doubt one of the reasons why eventually Graves and Riding left for Majorca, on which island they quickly established themselves. Of course, various disciples descended upon them, and this biographer gives the impression that the assorted cottages within the boundaries of the Graves-Riding domain were on occasions filled with highly strung people who delighted in nothing so much as practising on each other's nerves. So many "circles" and "inner circles", as before in England, that the prospect must have been dizzying.

Graves left Majorca at the time why is England different from her continental neighbours? The reality of profound differences used to be taken for granted; yet since the late 1970s historians have been discovering ways in which England before the 19th century was much more similar than we thought: in demography, property law, social structure, war, political ideology, elite hegemony. A more accurate account of the contrasts has really highlighted the much larger grass-roots similarities.

Yet we know instinctively that something is missing from these accounts. In the 19th and 20th centuries, continental Europe was swept by grandiose ideologies and, after their exhaustion, is hurrying towards anti-nationalist federalism. England, by contrast, was largely unmoved by these ideologies, and still retains a stubborn patriotism. If so many things were so similar, whence came this enormous difference of mood?

Some, like Lord Annan, put it down to *The Curious Strength of Positivism in English Political Thought*; but positivism was itself one of the grand continental sys-

A squirrel's collected works

FOR CHILDREN
Brian Alderson

CRACK A STORY
By Susan Price
Illustrated by Patrick Lynch
Faber, £7.99

and Paul and the Virgin Mary herself. The backchat has all the zest with which even squirrels may

AT THE top of a little nut-tree, known only to Susan Price, there lives a red carnelian squirrel. This squirrel has the habit of cracking strange mineral nuts — a Moonstone Nut with a Shell of Silver, a Topaz Nut with a Shell of Bronze — and for every nut that he cracks he tells one of the seven stories that figure here.

I'm not sure that he's a very necessary squirrel, nor that any relationship exists between the kinds of nut that he cracks and the kinds of story that he tells. Nevertheless, he is a chivalrous fellow, with a gift for finding those tales that celebrate the wit and daring of persons for whom the distaff has sometimes been thought more appropriate than the sword. When the King of Colchester's son makes a horrid cock-up of seeking the Well at the World's End, he must be saved by his sister. When wicked Silvertree sticks a poisoned thorn into her daughter Goldentree, it is not the kindly huntsman who brings her back to life but the practical Country Girl.

If you hear echoes of well-known folktales in these tiny synopses you are right, for in five of the stories Miss Price's squirrel has worked new variations on old motifs, often with a verve that sharpens our appreciation of the originals. (How natural that Bonehead, alias Cinderella, alias Molly Whuppie, would turn her Prince back into a pig when she got tired of him).

Only at the beginning and end of the sequence does modern invention come into play. This doesn't work very well in the first story where the supernatural force of Cat Anna, who eats children, is uncannily blended with a bit of social realism — Christmas among the down-and-outs on a council estate. For the last story, though, Susan Price daringly takes her egalitarian principles to the Golden Gates, where a forceful old woman manages to get her reprobate old man taken in, despite the prim opposition of Saints Peter

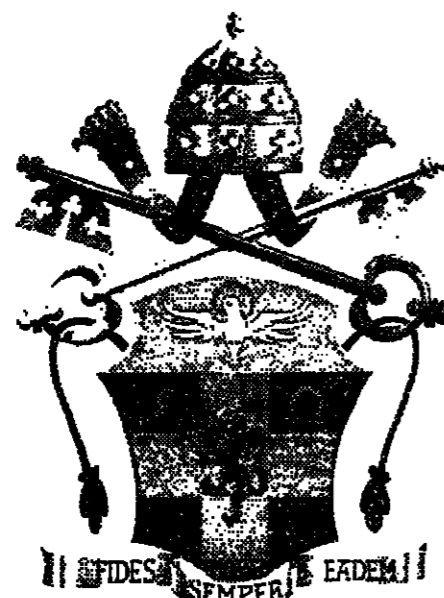


Women to the rescue again: from *The Well at the World's End*

'A thrill from start to finish — we may here be reading tomorrow's newspapers today.'

Daily Mail

MORRIS
WEST



LAZARUS

from the author of *The Shoes of the Fisherman*, the thrilling conclusion to the Vatican Trilogy

Out now!

WILLIAM HEINEMANN

The coarse art of cocking a snook

Tim Heald

NOBODY HURT IN
SMALL EARTHQUAKE
By Michael Green
Heinemann, £13.95

HERE'S a coarse fellow. Rugby. Sailing. Acting. Golf. Drinking. even Sex — you name it and Green's concerned it. Here in a second volume of autobiography, where a chap really ought to write seriously, he even portentously, he spends all his time being coarse. He's even coarse about the fine old art of provincial court reporting, suggesting about what was known to the young reporters of the *Northamptonshire Chronicle and Echo* in the Forties as "The Abominable Crime".

Men would return from the Assizes, and when asked what had happened they would respond: "Oh, only a criminal assault and a couple of abominable crimes." Green thinks the high incidence of abominable crime was due to Northants being an agricultural county, where the main form of transport available to farm labourers was the bicycle. In court the charge would be read in awe-inspiring and starkly explicit language which went something like this: "That you did commit and perpetrate the abominable crime, to wit buggery, with a sheep, the property of Thos Hardcastle, at Guilsborough, on April 1st 1948."

It is not quite clear how the sub-editors of the *Chronicle and Echo* rendered such reports acceptable to their family readership, but it afforded the newsroom a deal of amusement. And it gives you a fair idea of the flavour of this entertaining, self-deprecatory, and irredeemably coarse volume.

Not a lot happens. Green lives in tatty digs, rides a clapped-out motorbike to play rugby with a team called Leicester Thursday, and has trouble with girls. He also drinks a lot of beer. His ambitions at that early stage in his life were to be a "Writer", and to get to what was then Fleet Street, Fleet Street, namely the now defunct and unlamented *Daily Star*, was a considerable anti-climax. Nurtured on Philip Gibbs's *Street of Adventure*, he was expecting glamour and

excitement. Instead he found himself writing headlines such as "Drama of Worthing Beach Riddle" to go on top of a story about a pair of trousers discovered on the Sussex sands.

Inevitably this palls, and with a mad flourish he types out his notice: "I was going to abandon journalism and become a 'Writer'. I would finish the Great British Novel and... well something at any rate. I would never, ever, work on the staff of a newspaper again, or anyone's staff come to that. I would be a free man." These noble sentiments cut little ice with his awful deputy editor, who expressed scepticism about Green's ability to hack a living in the outside world.

"Don't worry," said our hero, huffily, "I shan't ask for my job back." "You wouldn't get it," Green records the beast as saying. "I made a mental resolve," he says, "to put him in a book some time. This desire to gain revenge by putting people in a book has haunted me over the years."

I know the feeling. It is, I suspect, universal among the self-employed, and certainly among self-employed scribes. Here is a man with a proper contempt for all who drive desks, edit or own papers, and seek to interfere with your life or your copy. Instead he has made a career out of being his own man, savouring the good and the coarse things of life, rollicking along, and to the fury of people who keep regular hours and wear suits, having a whale of a time cocking a snook at them.

This is a lovely book by a fully paid-up member of the Awkward Squad. Britain cannot be quite as ghastly as it sometimes seems if free spirits like this are at large.

One of the pleasures of buying a sleek new paperback is its up-to-date air. You feel you are acquiring the latest thing in letters. But paperbacks are often at their best as a means of getting your hands on what's already happened — sometimes rather a long time ago. All the Conspirators, Christopher Isherwood's first novel, was first published in 1928, when he was 23. The book is, as a wise Isherwood recognized in a wonderfully shrewd introduction dating from 1957, full of a young man's brash bravura. The old are the enemy. Philip, self-conscious and ineffective, is forced to work as a clerk by his manipulative mother. Longing to be a brilliant painter (or a profound writer, he can't make his mind up), he loathes suburbia and all it stands for. The novel is a preposterous escape story which has accidentally become a piece of literary history. But the zest of its resentment and aspiration has worn well, and as a way of learning about the adolescent energies that lay behind a good deal of fashionable literature in the Thirties the book is to be relished.

Carlos Fuentes's *Aura* (Deutsch, £4.95) was first published in Spanish in 1962, and the distinction of

Freshly minted literary history

FICTION

Dinah Birch

ALL THE CONSPIRATORS
By Christopher Isherwood
Minerva, £3.99

his subsequent career makes it another piece of literary history. This is acknowledged in an appendix ("How I wrote *Aura*") half as long as the novella itself, in which Fuentes proposes a long and self-dignifying ancestry for his story, reaching back into the earliest origins of Chinese literature. But the clearest influence to be discerned in Fuentes's gloomy and spectral tale of perverted magic is that of American Gothic, from Poe to the horror movie. This is an old-fashioned ghost story, and a good one — though at £4.95 for 57 pages its frissons come rather expensive.

Marguerite Duras published *The Vice-Consul* (Flamingo, £3.95) in 1966. Set among the jungles and colonial residences of Asia, it is a

story of uncomprehending misery and isolation. Duras's point is that the white expatriates cannot insulate themselves from suffering. The Vice-Consul juxtaposes the situation of a disgraced diplomat exiled in Calcutta with that of a crazed beggar woman who has wandered into India from Cambodia. But the story of the outcast woman, recounted with stark intensity, shrinks the uneasy experiences of the diplomatic community into pettiness. Destitution and hunger are what make this a haunting book, not the refined discontents of civilization.

Eva Figes's *Light* (Flamingo, £3.50) is a much more comforting read. The book recounts a day in the life of Monet and his family in

Double helping of delights for t

Lynne Truss

WOMAN'S HOUR BOOK
OF SHORT STORIES

Selected and edited by Pat
McLaughlin
BBC Books, £4.99
BBC Radio Collection, £5.99
(two cassettes)

THE broad theme of this splendid collection, which is available both in paperback and on cassette, is love, and the standard of the stories is very high indeed. All are by women writers from this century, with an Elizabeth Bowen story ("The Needlecase") alongside a Deborah Moggach and a Shena McKay. All but three are read by women, too, the most excellent readings coming from Polly James ("Lychees for Toae" by Jane Gardam), Margaret Tizack ("An Act of Reparation" by Sylvia Townsend Warner), and Maria Aitken ("The Lost Chapel Picnic" by Margery Sharp).

Indeed, Margery Sharp is the find of the collection. Her story, about an annual bicycle outing which "always took place in rain" — and which family members used as "a

wonderful testing-ground for the current objects of our affections" — is witty and exact. It gets warmer and funnier each time you hear it.

All the humour in this collection is subtle, subversive, and breathtakingly precise. In Deborah Moggach's "Vacant Possession", for example, the female estate-agent narrator does not realize she is falling in love with a client until, showing a prospective buyer around his house, she notes that there has been an overnight companion in his bedroom: "The people wanted to know if the blinds went with the house. I answered

them, gazing at the bed. Beside it were two glasses and a half-empty bottle of C&S dos. And... Maggie Thatcher candle, burnt down to a point sloping bare shoulders. She must have been important, for him to have burnt his candle."

Sylvia Townsend Warner's story, too, is a perfectly judged tale, in which a chance encounter, brings together the first and second wives of Fenton Hardcastle. The first wife, Lois, feels wretched when she meets the silly young woman who has supplanted her in Fenton's affections — but not for the usual

BOOKS

A voice was brought from the Graves

at Volume Two of the poet's biography, who helped guide him to his lyric genius

of the Spanish Civil War, and did not return for another 10 years. When he and Riding came back to London, some of the intimacy between them seems to have vanished along with the spell of the island itself. Nevertheless, they remained prominent literary figures throughout the Thirties (this volume ends in 1940), even though their erstwhile "exile" in Majorca only emphasized how much they remained outside the establishment. The fact that Graves had written excellent poetry as well as *Claudius*, quite apart from *Goodbye to All That*, made him in any case hard to categorize.

ROBERT GRAVES
The Years with Laura
By Richard Perceval Graves
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £25

After some vague European wanderings, they made their way to the United States in the spring of 1939; but it was only the prelude to the final separation of the two writers. But who could say that it had not been an immensely significant collaboration? Graves had begun his life with her in a state of uncertainty and panic, which left him on several occasions close to breakdown; but at the end of their relationship he was as fulfilled in this art as he was soon to be in his life.

The point is that, on the evidence of this biography, Robert Graves always seemed somehow to be lost in the world. He was always muddling through, bewildered and unhappy, until he met Laura Riding; there is no doubt that he needed her guidance. And although there are occasions when this biographer seems more kind to Graves than to Riding, it is really Graves who emerges here as the least sympathetic of the two — there were times when he was too self-concerned, too self-defensive.

And yet out of the muddle and chaos of his interior life emerged the true poetic voice. He was perhaps the best English lyricist of the century — even if, in search of his destiny, he left familial unhappiness in his wake. And it is not absurd to imagine, after all, that a good poet need necessarily be a good man (even if we were foolish enough to attempt to define "good" in either instance). Richard Perceval Graves does not raise such questions, although his book has the merit of suggesting them. It is cogently and gracefully written, and in fact it is in almost every respect an improvement upon its predecessor — although Mr Graves has once again taken his position as a member of the poet's family a little too seriously. Of course he has had the great advantage of access to family documents that have hitherto been unpublished, but it cannot be said that the ruminations of the Graves clan on this or that aspect of affairs always make for fascinating reading. It is also perhaps a mistake to suggest that Robert Graves's adaptation of *David Copperfield* "is far more accessible to a modern audience than the original".

But enough said on that score: at the centre of this volume is an extraordinary relationship, quite the most interesting literary collaboration of the century, and Richard Perceval Graves handles it with great tact and sympathy. It must have been a hard book to write, not least because some of the protagonists are still alive, but Mr Graves has learnt the great lesson of biography: to understand rather than to judge. And what of Robert Graves himself? Despite all the evidence gathered here, he remains something of an enigma. A great poet undoubtedly, who, although he remained all his life outside the mainstream, has left his mark on English literature. And for that, too, a portion of thanks should be offered to Laura Riding herself.



Yesterday's men in particular

Jonathan Clark

THE ENGLISH HISTORICAL TRADITION SINCE 1850
By Christopher Parker
John Donald, Edinburgh, £20

terms, never naturalized here. Others said that the English were deeply untheoretical, so confining to high culture England's astonishing gallery of theorists, from William of Ockham to Keynes. Christopher Parker has a much better idea. He sees the special place that history has played in English intellectual life since Macaulay, and he finds its role essentially captured in Aristotle's *Poetics*: "Poetry speaks more of universals, history of particulars."

So we have the features of English historiography which Parker claims as characteristic: "An empirical method, but a rejection of scientific principles and a belief in historical method *sui generis*; a liberal and individualist approach, based on a belief in free will and moral responsibility; the nation as the prime generic concept; developmental and optimistic; and Christian." These, he believes, sustained the powerful individualism of English historical writing from Stubbs to Elton, a sceptical cast of mind

that has been a powerful solvent of metaphysical ideologies. But exactly this individualism, argues Parker, has prevented English historians from seeing that their own methods themselves amounted to an ideology. Consequently, English history in its individualistic forms has been as patriotic as it has been lacking in self-awareness.

So English historians hardly ever wrote about their own discipline. When they did, they discovered that their 16th and 17th-century predecessors had been locked in political controversy, and profoundly committed for sophisticated reasons to a nation, a dynasty, or a church. Yet 20th-

century scholars tended to become indignant if it was suggested that their methods, too, had their origins and their consequences.

Indignation is a powerful weapon. With it, the English empiricists saw off the continental system-builders: Comte, Hegel, Marx, Croce, Treitschke, Braudel. The best English historians, by contrast, have been superbly negative and slashing reductionist, ripping down airy continental nonsense with sharp, scholarly hooks.

This was not done easily or without controversy. On the contrary, it was bitterly fought at every step, by other historians who had a quite different vision of the nature of their subject, both as scholarship and as public doctrine. It is these debates that are the subject of Parker's perceptive and illuminating study.

If this book has a fault, it is to credit its subjects with being more theoretical than they were, and more hard-headed. Poetry may be antithetical to history, but many

English historians sold out to poetry. Carlyle rejected the technical scholar Dryasdust, and claimed: "History after all is the true poetry." Trevelyan went further and subverted the scholarly ideal: "Dryasdust at bottom is a poet... truth is the criterion of historical study; but its impelling motive is poetic."

Parker is enthusiastic about the influence of the social sciences on history since the 1960s; he is warm towards fellow-travellers such as E.H. Carr, and such spokesmen of "the optimistic, progressive liberal presence" as J.H. Plumb. He is evidently hostile to Christians (Butterfield), conservatives (Covington), idealists (Oakeshott), anti-historicists (Popper), anti-Postitivists ("that terrible individualist", Hayek) and professionalists (Elton). But this only means that the book tails off inconclusively in the mid-1970s, unable to grasp why so many appeasers, historians as well as political, have been upset since 1979. As with other sorts of history, the study of historical writing itself is only credible if the trail leads us to the point at which we now stand.

The Blitz saga goes rumbling on

William Jackson

THE BLITZ Then and Now Volume 3 THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN Then and Now Mark 5
Edited by Winston G. Ramsey
Battle of Britain Prints International, £39.95 each

THESE two very fine memorial- and reference books about the German Blitz and the Battle of Britain will appeal to three groups of people. Memories — some proud, some nostalgic, and some sad — will be rekindled for those who took part in these events half a century ago. Families of those killed will find solace in them. And succeeding generations, who knew nothing of the war, will enjoy browsing through them. This is the third volume of *Blitz*, and the fifth up-date of the *Battle of Britain*.

Winston Ramsey uses the same general format as he developed in his very successful *After the Battle* magazine series — a chronology of events backed by photographic comparisons of then and now, eyewitness accounts, and explanatory treatises by experts. But there are two major differences between these two books and the magazines: their size and scope is very much more ambitious; and they are written in *memorial* to the

146,777 civilians who died in the Blitz on the ground, and to 1,503 of the Few who were killed in air combat overhead or on the airfields by enemy action.

In the first half of Volume 3 of *The Blitz*, Ramsey covers the Bader or "revenge" raids on cities like Coventry, Norwich, and Canterbury, and the lesser known *Steinbock* raids — the so-called Baby Blitz; and in its second half, he deals with the V1, Doodlebug,

and V2, ballistic rocket, onslaughts on London and the south-east.

Both the British and German accounts are given, setting the struggle in true perspective. The German attacks after June 1941 were largely in retaliation for Bomber Command's mass bombing of major German cities.

In *The Battle of Britain*, Ramsey quite rightly makes no attempt to retell more than the outline of the battle; nor does he cover the German side of the story. He concentrates, first, on the RAF stations from which the battles were fought; and then he provides a day-to-day chronology of the battle, backed by personal accounts of the various incidents, and details of subsequent research into the loss of each aircraft.

A critic of an earlier edition remarked: "Never in the field of historical research has so much detail been lavished with such care on so few." His words apply even more aptly to this latest expanded Mark V edition.

PAPERBACKS

the garden at Giverny. "We live in a luminous cloud of changing light, a sort of envelope. That is what I have to catch." If such musings remind you of Virginia Woolf, you are spot on. *Light* is more of a celebration of Woolf than of Monet: a new version, in fact, of *To the Lighthouse*. Like Mr Ramsay, Monet is a patriarch, his creativity supported by a bevy of unhappy women. Finesse has caught all the sharpness of Woolf's feminism. But Monet's insights are allowed to transcend his selfishness. As marriages are made and deaths approached, his painting creates a timeless harmony of light and dark.

Five Down Below (Faber, £3.90) concludes the outstanding maritime trilogy that William Golding began with *Rites of Passage* and *Close Quarters*. Edmund Talbot, the callow youth whose voyage to Australia has been a long and eventual moral education, finally and rather anti-climactically reaches dry land. But Edmund's doubts were never really the point. Golding's imaginative commitment is to a self-contained world answering to laws as inexorable and precise as the forgotten procedures of 19th-century seamanship.

he senses

reasons of anger and jealousy. No, what Lois feels is guilt. In gaining her freedom, she realizes, she has passed her cross on to other, less able, shoulders. "Apparently it is impossible to commit the simplest act of selfishness, or self-defence even, without pain or inconvenience to others."

Should you buy book, cassette, or both? Well, the book contains a few stories not included on the cassettes, but on balance I would buy the cassettes. Sydney Smith once defined Heaven as "eating *pâté de foie gras* to the sound of trumpets", and the notion of gratifying several senses simultaneously has always seemed to me particularly sound. Opting for the cassettes means you can construct a modern version — eating gherkins to the sound of Maria Aïken.



Off the rails: the beautifully preserved Hellingly station, Sussex

Making fresh tracks

Alan Franks

RAILWAY WALKS GWR & SR
By Jeff Vinter
Alan Sutton, £9.95

OF ALL the hazards of planning a longish walk in the countryside around the cartography of the Ordnance Survey, none has been greater than being beguiled by the romantic tracery of the disused railway line. For since the great closures of the branch lines in the 1960s, the snakes of land which sloughed off their rail-skins have had very varying fates. Some have passed from the British Rail Property Board into the ownership of local authorities; some have been bought by neighbouring farmers; some have been built over, and others left to the brambles. In just 30 years the embankment of a once tidy little service can seem thoroughly reclaimed by the landscape, and the line on the map becomes a record of the past.

When I saw that the chairman of the trackers' organization called Railway Ramblers had produced a guide to 10 branch-line walks, and that this volume was to be the first of a region-by-region series, my step lightened, for it plugs one of

the few real gaps remaining in current walking literature. Jeff Vinter has done the job on the empty beds of the Great Western Railway and Southern Region networks with splendid dedication. Here are the lines of the Cheddar Valley, the Forest of Dean, the Downs Link, and seven more, laid out before us in their alluring narrow vistas, complete with the circumnavigations we must make around the new obstructions.

The beauty of these walks, which Vinter breaks down into easily assimilable sections, is twofold. First, they have had remoteness thrust upon them by the passing of their original function: second, if the locomotives could handle the gradients, then so can you.

Tea for two, but without sympathy

THIS is not quite the usual straightforward tale of detection. There is murder and finally a police discovery by accident but, in the main, *Sheep's Clothing* is more of a strange and remarkable novel. It concerns two female former jailbirds. The elder is full of guile, and her junior partner is a much younger, rather soppy girl she befriended in prison.

Their technique is to follow an elderly lady who has just drawn her pension or looks as though she may have some money. With the address established, the pair, masquerading as social workers, obtain an official-looking form, and announce they have come from the Social Security with great good news. The victim has been underpaid and her back pension entitlement of hundreds of pounds or more will be forwarded after her visitors have taken some necessary details. The younger one volunteers to make tea, adding for the hostess some fast-acting sleeping powder. While she is asleep her visitors remove anything of value, including savings under the mattress.

All goes well until the younger one, once an intermittent, unenthusiastic prostitute, falls in love, and a victim is accidentally given a drug overdose. Exciting as well as enchantingly written.

David M. Pierce's *Hear the Wind Blow, Dear* (Penguin, £2.99) features an American private eye, drug peddler and a murder. A deranged young refugee from Nicaragua, where he was cruelly tortured, lives illegally and well hidden deep in a state forest. Missing sheep start the hero on his inquiries. They involve him in a getting beaten up, having a romantic affair on the side, discover-

ing a narcotics plantation concealed by surrounding trees, the grave of a murder victim, planting false evidence to ensure the conviction of the actual criminals. The writing, imitative of the great American practitioners' style of staccato tough-talking cops and villains, only just avoids grating. The plot is good and holds attention.

Geoff Nicholson tells the story of *The Knot Garden* (Hodder & Stoughton, £3.99) through several characters. It is cunningly woven, but I found it bemusing at the beginning. It grew on me the more I got stuck into it. A wife who no longer loves her husband is told how to investigate his death should this event be presented as a suicide in a place where he is not scheduled to be. A garden expert, he should have

been many miles away. There is sex, occasionally coarse, a disowned, inquisitive, illegitimate child, a great business tycoon and, of course, strangely fashioned gardens. Not at all bad.

The last but not least of this pleasing batch is Lillian Jackson Braun's *The Cat Who Saw Red* (Headline, £2.99). The Siamese cat is by way of being an amateur detective directing its owner, a newspaperman infuriated by being assigned to write a gourmet column, through signals not always easy to comprehend. The cat likes tapping messages on the typewriter but is far below the standard of a typing school. This cat and his female cohabitee share the life of the reporter. Both cats have an excellent line in body language, alerting their owner to clues which otherwise the slow-witted human would have missed. It is set in a provincial American town and I enjoyed it immensely.

CRIME
Woodrow Wyatt
SHEEP'S CLOTHING
By Celia Dale
Penguin, £2.99

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by Isaac S.
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Michael Gwynne

"MARVELOUS"
black market
flourish, extra
interrogate the
better, primo
bodies, and a
The Times

"FINE PEE"
Financial Times

"The power
vividly adapt
Daily Mail

SEVEN

THE ARTS

Just listen
by jingo

RADIO

Martin Cropper

ANTHONY Burgess's continuing campaign to register himself as the Dr Omnicious of Europe entered yet another plea with *European Culture: Does It Exist?* (Radio 3, Wednesday), a surely parodic title. Not once did he mention football, a true *lingua franca*. "Culture," here meant things dear to the heart of a pro-war provincial self-improver imbibing Sibelius from a cloistered crystal set; it meant, above all, the fantasy of a Culture Lake dispensing rivulets of pearls to grateful swineherds.

This led, inevitably, to a consideration of the medium in which he delivered his fustian, that, whose "unravelling cultural significance" has long vanished. Radio, based necessarily on language, preserves those national distinctions which are eroded by the "internationalism" of film and television. To hope for anything further is paeia in the sky, even for a *bien-pensant* liberal humanist.

One wonders where Burgess would place *Victor Lewis-Smith* (Radio 1, Saturday). The sensibilities of the salon stand little chance in the company of "Dr Dreyfus, Britain's only Jewish one-fingered gynaeologist," who professes his kippers "Yommed", or the boorish chirping of a taxi driver singing "Baby It's A Big Horse (I'm A Londoner)".

Lewis-Smith's humour is constantly short-circuiting itself and treating ideas as clockwork toys to be wound up for the pleasure of seeing where they will fall. In this respect Lewis-Smith refers not so much to *Monty Python* as to the Bozo Doo Band at their apogee. He can also sing.

The new production of *Macbeth* at the London Coliseum might have surprised Verdi. John Higgins reports

Trouble, toil and typewriter



Your face, my thane, is as a book: Jonathan Summers (Macbeth) and Kristine Ciesinski (Lady Macbeth)

English National Opera's series of Verdi productions has become not so much a cycle as a Big Dipper, with musical highs and production lows. The pattern continues with the ENO's first *Macbeth*, which shows, once again, that the company's musical director, Mark Elder, is one of the finest Verdi conductors to be found around these shores.

The musical preparation for *Macbeth* has clearly been meticulous. Elder has gone for the version Verdi revised for Paris in 1865 and has been bold enough to include the ballet. Apart from some signs of tiredness in the final act the orchestra was close to top form. Elder excelled in the great choral ensembles, especially the end of Act I.

But then comes the little matter of David Pountney's production. This is enclosed by a series of moving black walls slashed with white paint, devised by Stefanos Lazaridis. On top of one of them is a military charger. Pountney appears to see *Macbeth* as a nightmare of army tyranny, with the people (perhaps taking a cue from the chorus "Patria oppressa") as the drudges. Jackboots and peaked caps abound. At the close, when Malcolm is crowned king, there is indication that one monster has been exchanged for another. As in *Boris Godunov*, the line of tyrants continues, and the populace trudges on.

All this is set in David Pountney's favourite period of post-war austerity, where everyone out of uniform wears the drabdest of clothes. Even Lady Macbeth goes to the kitchen sink to erase the blood from her hands

One must question what all this has to do with Verdi's *Macbeth*. But then, Pountney likes to tease, provoke and, most especially, to obfuscate. In character, he stages the most difficult parts of the opera rather well: Banquo's ghost pops up in unexpected places, although he is covered in green blood; Duncan (another with

green blood) is a white-haired puppet neatly substituted on stage; the silvery line of future kings is properly unearthly.

The trouble comes when he has to deal with the everyday emotions and events of grand opera, such as greed, ambition, revenge and murder. Parts of this *Macbeth* are just plain perverse.

The assassins, despatched to deal with Banquo, drag up as suburban housewives. Banquo himself carries a battered portable typewriter, and the killing is watched by a number of tailor's dummies banked in a sylvan glade. It might all have been fun to invent, but the relevance is not exactly clear.

Even more disturbing is the habit of making things difficult for the singers. Kristine Ciesinski as Lady Macbeth has to sing her opening aria from a bedstead (close fellow to that used by Mme Arvidson in the ENO's notorious *Ballo*) on a tiny platform nailed to the wall 15 feet above the stage. She sounded happier back at ground level. With her hair scraped back and with the lithe figure of a Martha Graham dancer, Ciesinski was a Lady Macbeth full of menace and devilry until the mind snaps, using rather more sweetness of voice than many in the part.

Her clear intelligence made Jonathan Summers in the title role look the bumbler in the family. Many years ago Summers gave us Verdi's 1847 version; since then his baritone has filled out enormously. He has no problems with the part, and plenty of volume left for Macbeth's aria in the last act.

John Connell, despite that battered old portable, makes a properly grave Banquo. Edward Barham's Macduff gives much more tenor weight than usual to his aria and is a villain in the making rather than a golden hero. There is no pretending that the Act III ballet is as relevant to the action as it is, for instance, in *Vespre*. It was indifferently choreographed and performed by Second Stride. Mark Elder saved the day here. Once again, with his chorus and orchestra, he has emerged as the ENO's favourite son.

Twice within a week a volley of boos has greeted the production team at a Verdi first night, the other being at *Jerusalem* in Leeds. It is time Verdi was given an even break on stage.

Singer in
the pulpit

ROCK

Jasper Rees

Van Morrison
Wembley Arena

IN THE second number of a sprawling two-and-a-half hour show, a church steeple was projected on to the screen at the back of the stage, and the devotional tone was set. Van Morrison's fans nowadays form not so much audiences as congregations.

Morrison raced through the up-tempo songs — "Tore Down a la Rimbaldi", "Dweller on the Threshold" — as if he had to deliver another sermon elsewhere. After a bizarre version of Dylan's "Just Like a Woman", a sprightly "Did Ye Get Healed", a couple of ballads off the *Heartbeat* album he cut with the Chieftains, and the marathon meditation "Summer-time in England", he had only just warmed up.

At this point he made his first exit, which paved the way for a second coming, and indeed a third, fourth and fifth. Thereafter, he decelerated into the stately songs from more recent times. In "In The Garden" Morrison's lieutenant and organist George Fane sang the lyrics "No guru, no method, no teacher" and then added "except Van Morrison", presumably to return the compliment of being introduced as "The Reverend Fane".

Rendering the Them standard "Gloria", followed immediately by Johnny Kidd and the Pirates' "Shakin' All Over", the Celtic muso chortled uncontrollably. If only for the second half, this was an uplifting glimpse of the boy in him whom they call Van the Man.



Don Juan (Linus Roache) and Aminta (Catherine White)

The trickster as a supercilious café rat

Benedict Nightingale

The Last Days
of Don Juan
The Swan, Stratford

HERE is the root of one of the modern world's most potent legends. Molière's cynical free-thinker, Mozart's majestic outsider, Byron's romantic rebel, even the self-serving bachelor of Shaw's *Man and Superman*: all those Don Juans owe their being to the play a Spanish friar called Tinto de Molina wrote around 1620.

Nick Dear's "new version" makes fairly free with Tinto's prototype, transforming his male Leporello into a grouchy female cook, survivor of a shipwreck involving the fleeing Don. He is

also at special pains to emphasize the hypocrisy of a "code of honour" in which it is worse to break a promise to sup with a gentleman than to deceive, abuse and ruin a woman.

Moreover, he makes it clear that the double standards in this world are not only sexual clannishness and nepotism thrive, and help Juan escape discovery and punishment.

Yet his bed tricks and rural seductions still proceed to their punitive conclusion, one to which the coward Tinto gave a more overt religious significance than did his successors. His seducer's mistake is to tell a country bride he hopes God will punish any treachery on his part by sending "a terrible end at another man's hand", safeguarding himself with the aside, "providing he's deceased". There is, it seems, a barrier between divine mercy and justice, and Juan's blasphemy crashes it.

As Tinto creates him, Dear adapts him, and Linus Roache plays him, Juan turns out to be less complex than most of his descendants. No hint of psychological trauma, suppressed homosexuality, or even militant atheism. The Don is "a trickster of Seville", a sexual opportunist, a supercilious café rat who finds it amusing to scratch notches on his bedpost. Give him dark glasses, dangle a medalion down his chest, and he could be any narcissistic brat, cruising the beaches of Rimini or Cannes.

As it happens, the magnificence in Danny Boyle's production wears period black. However, their conversation has been updated, perhaps too much. No doubt we find phrases like "shut up", "bloody stupid" and "don't muck about" easier on the ear than more formal stuff. Nevertheless, they tend to lighten and even trivialize what are, after all, life-and-death issues. Certainly, last night's audi-

ence tittered too often and pointlessly.

One of the gallants Juan impersonates is gratuitously played by Paterson Joseph as a posturing hoorah Henry in canary yellow. Sylvester Morand's spectral Don Gonzalo loses half his terror when Juan reacts to his booming entrance with a facetious "I think someone's at the door" and "never seen a moving statue before".

Boyle's revival has its merits, not least that it has happened at all. An infant myth has been rescued from obscurity and directed with verve on a stage bare except for the red-streaked walls looming at the back, with windows like eyes cut into them. Moreover, it is energetically acted by Raymond Bowers, George Anton, Catherine White and others. The problem is that it is uneasily poised between comedy and theological threat, and nearer the former than the latter.

Carmina in close-up

CONCERT

Noël Goodwin

Philharmonia/Slatkin
Festival Hall

AT THE Festival Hall, critics are usually seated in a small but eminently self-important cluster halfway back. On Tuesday, however, I was allotted a seat almost within sight-reaching distance of the first violins' music, from where the Philharmonia sound was curiously claustrophobic in the stresses of Vaughan Williams's Sixth Symphony.

Of course, I could detect more of the inner detail, even against what seemed like a dominant weight of drums and low strings from the angle I heard them. But the occasional imprecision, the snatched note or the not-quite-togetherness, also registered.

Leonard Slatkin was demonstrating his sympathetic American's concern for the kind of English music that clearly appeals to his conducting sensibilities. Elements of the human spirit in turmoil were given largeness, breadth and dignity in this performance, as well as an appropriate tinge of mystery. If the Scherzo began as a scramble, before set-

ting into a more confident stride, it prefaced an Epilogue of quite desolate pathos.

Such a work should properly end a programme, so that we leave with its splendours, miseries and unresolved enigmas lingering in our ears. To follow it, even after an interval, with *Carmina Burana* was to risk the listener becoming merely irritated with the simplistic, rhythmic word-setting that should be part of its personal appeal, not least for chorus and soloists. But the Philharmonia Chorus's director, Horst Neumann, had instilled vigour and discipline into his choir, as Michael Crabb had into the Southend Boys' Choir, so the mainstay of Orff's music was secure.

Slatkin did what he could to vary the rigidity of Orff's four-square patterns, though I was surprised he did not reduce the voices more for semi-chorus passages. James Bowman's counter-tenor emerged from a side box for his roasted-swan solo (which, I suppose, let him come and go without having to sit through all the rest), but Penelope Walton-Clark had to sit full-frontal for half-an-hour before singing a note. When she did, they were effectively phased, as were those from the amiable baritone of Anthony Michaels-Moore.

Forgotten warrior for equality

TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

CHRIS Mitchell's *Comrade Sak* (Channel 4) told the largely unknown story of Shapurji Saklatvala who, in 1924, became the first Indian communist to be elected to the House of Commons. A man of great ideals, he came from an extremely affluent background, was radically remade by racial intolerance, imprisoned during the General Strike for inciting soldiers to disobey orders, and finished up fighting Gandhi, for whom, in his daughter's view, he felt considerable personal jealousy and political animosity.

Mitchell's main problem was an almost total lack of archive footage relating to Sak. Though he did his best with interviews and extracts from the speeches read by an actor, there was still a sense of Hamlet without the Prince.

Sak was evidently a man torn apart by conflicts not only in the politics of Britain and India but

also by those in his own personality and background. Eventually refused a passport to the land of his birth, he ended his life lecturing in the Soviet Union and died a decade before India gained independence. He lives now most clearly in the recollections of a daughter, without whom Mitchell would not have had a programme.

Thirty years on from *West Side Story*, according to last night's *Arena* (BBC 2), marauding gangs of gay black transvestites named after such rival fashion houses as Chanel and St Laurent are roaming the streets of New York, putting the fear of God into their mothers, if no one else. One mother was apparently so angry that her son had managed to grow breasts larger than her own that she recently burned his milk coat.

All of this could have provided worthy material, if not for a stage sequel to *La Cage aux Folles*, then at least for an inspired documentary. Unfortunately what came from *Arena* was a shambles: a film apparently bought in from American television stations and then heavily re-cut. It was still

unable to make any real sense of the problem, one it shared with its interviewees, most of whom were transvestite models in real difficulties with the English language.

"I want my name to be a household product," said one. One tried to imagine him rechristened Hoover or Harpic. Another had decided on a career plan to star "in all the media including both films and movies".

Seemingly not so much directed or produced as thrown together in an editing room during a commercial break, the film began to explore various local life stories, though naturally it left until last the only really intriguing one, that of a model who was murdered. Even here, typically, the programme-makers failed to complete the tale, or to interview anyone other than a friend of the deceased who had very little to say and still found great difficulty in saying it. All in all, an undisciplined and aimless programme. The same, perhaps, could be said of the lives of its participants, but someone could have done them the honour of a structured survey.

Held for questioning

Jeremy Kingston

Being at Home
with Claude
King's Head

WHEN a play's climax is a frenetic recollection of an orgasm, it may seem aptly metaphorical to make the preceding scenes long and full of delays and scattered with sexy talk. The risk is that the audience becomes impatient and with all the preliminaries and starts to fidget.

The Montreal author René-Daniel Dubois sets his play in a judge's office early one Monday morning. All night an Inspector has been questioning Yves, played by Lothaire Bluteau (recently the lead in the film *Jesus of Montreal*), about his relationship with Claude, whose body has been found with its throat slit. Yves phones the police to report the murder, accuses himself and insists on police in this particular judge's office. Why, asks the inspector, speaking for us all, was the murder committed?

Yves refuses to say. The police discover from other sources that he is a male prostitute, and that Claude was his lover, not a client. Still Yves says he will not talk

until the judge appears. Since a glance at the cast list reveals that the judge will make no appearance, the delay is evidently intended to build up curiosity and tension.

For some time the trick works. Hints of the corruption, sexual and financial, existing throughout the community, gives Montreal the air of a steamy Chandler city — and David Howey's Inspector flashes something like Bogart's toothy, humourless smile.

But the author's long postponement of the dénouement causes us to feel that, under Rob Mulholland's direction, the glowering Bluteau has struck his head against the linenfold panelling enough times. What else can he do?

He shows us in the last 20 minutes. Describing his last meal and sex with Claude, Yves's delivery at first comes over as recital, not re-experience. But Bluteau then thrusts himself into emotional overdrive. Weeping, dribbling, smiling, drenched with sweat, he becomes the character he has hitherto been playing. Separation between Bluteau and Yves no longer exists, so absolutely does the actor occupy the role. It is a dangerous absolute but, for connoisseurs of the dangerous, it is not to be missed.

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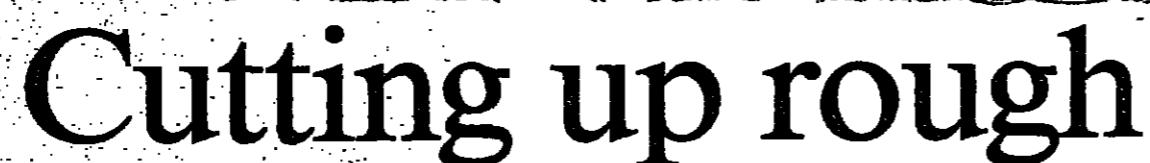
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children, which will present a variety of shows during school holidays and half-terms.

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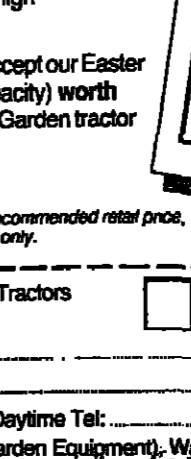
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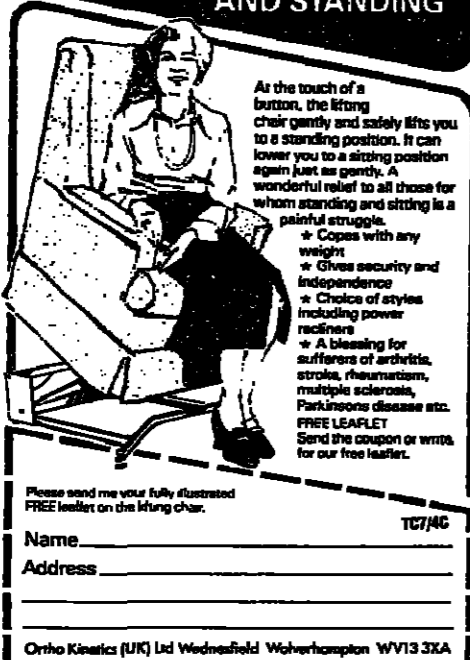
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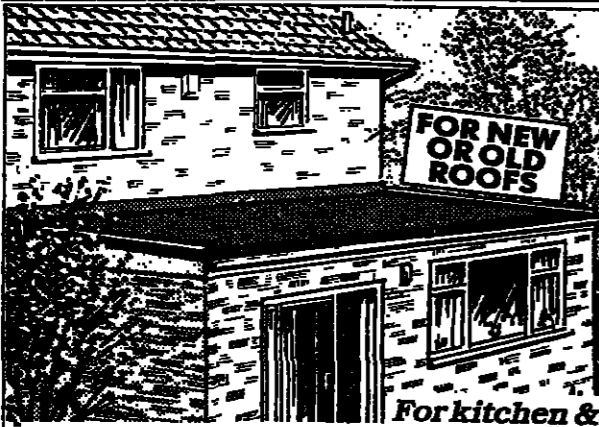
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SHOPPING

Report by Nicole Swengley

Cracking the Easter market

The Easter egg market in Britain is worth about £148 million a year and is increasing annually by nearly £10 million. The total number of eggs produced in 1989 weighed 15,850 tons, increasing last year to 16,340 tons.

Almost half the eggs are consumed by pre-teenage children, although adults account for more than a third of the spending. Young tastes differ from that of adults, as our tasting panel (below) discovered, and manufacturers aim their brands specifically at the two markets with great effect.

Such sweet success is jealously guarded by the main manufacturers. In recent years, the competition among them has been heightened by a series of takeovers. Fewer companies now control a larger proportion of the market. The Cadbury takeover of

Trebor and Bassett, for example, has given it 26 per cent of the UK's confectionery market. Rowntree Macintosh, which was acquired by Nestlé in 1988 for £2.5 billion, has around 23 per cent of the confectionery market and a big slice of the Easter egg section, selling nearly 30 million eggs a year.

These two companies account for more than 70 per cent of all Easter egg sales.

Mars, a relative newcomer in the Easter egg stakes since 1976, holds around 19 per cent of the overall confectionery cake. A smaller share, around 4 per cent, is

taken by Terry's of York, acquired by United Biscuits in 1982.

The average of £60 that each of us in the UK spent last year on all forms of confectionery is heavily influenced by brand loyalty. Although there are more than 1,000 brands of confectionery on sale in Britain, the top 36 account for around 50 per cent of sales.

Many of the most famous names have been around for years. The first Cadbury eggs were made in 1875; Rowntree eggs appeared in 1904. KitKat was launched in 1935 as Chocolate Crisp, changing its name two years later. Quality

Street dates back to 1936 and Smarties to 1937. Terry's All Gold emerged in 1932 in a box similar to today's Black Magic, introduced in 1933, was the result of consumer research leading to the first chocolate assortment made for the UK mass market (although its packaging has evolved over the years, only three chocolate centres have ever been replaced).

With brand loyalty so high on the shopping list, manufacturers are keen to sell not only chocolate eggs but specific brands of chocolate eggs. As a result, sales techniques have become highly

sophisticated. Huge advertising campaigns have become the means of ensuring continued brand loyalty. Jacobs Suchard is backing its first UK Milk range of Easter eggs with a £3 million television advertising campaign. Cadbury's crème egg relaunch is supported by an advertising spend of more than £2 million, plus extensive public relations activity.

John Newman, director of the Biscuit, Cake, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance, says: "The Easter egg market has seen a huge revival over the past five years. This, together with the

growth in the under-five age group, has led to a 77 per cent value increase in the Easter egg market between 1984 and 1989."

Simon Warsap says in the trade magazine CTN: "The trend is for most manufacturers to base their lines on established brands and popular characters — usually cartoon and television figures. Style and taste have been the catchwords for the Eighties. But the days have gone when the bulk of Easter sales was through confectioners, tobacconists and newsagents. The retail world has changed; the load redistributed."

Despite the traditional emphasis on Cadbury's Bunnies, launched in 1936, accounts for around nine million eggs each Easter — fresh trends are emerging, such as the new demand for white chocolate.

Personalizing eggs is another growth area, with more than 1.25 million names iced on to chocolate eggs in Thornton's 270 outlets last Easter.

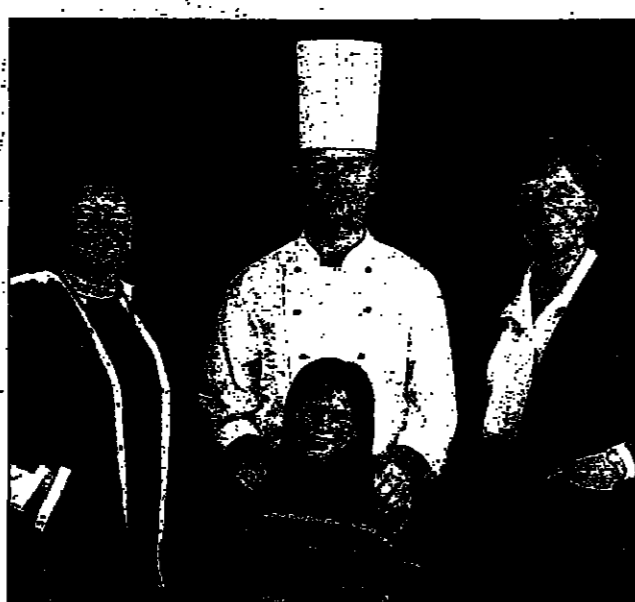
Novelty eggs also have their place in this growing market. Kinnerton's has introduced 11 new lines this Easter, including Spider Man and the Incredible Hulk.

Magna, which achieved record sales last year, producing more than 18 million eggs, under its own name and for many of the UK's confectionery houses, is offering eggs featuring Yogi Bear, Rupert Bear, Popeye and Tom & Jerry, among others.

THE CHOCOLATE EGG TASTING PANEL

The proof of the chocolate is in the eating, so Frances Bissell, *The Times* cook, took part in a "blind" tasting session of a dozen Easter eggs with three self-confessed chocoholics: Helge Rubenstein, author of *The Chocolate Book*; Glen Purcell, who runs the kitchens at Studley Priory Hotel, Horton-cum-Studley, near Oxford, where a special chocolate weekend takes place; and Meredith Tillman, an eight-year-old whose birthday treat following our tasting was a visit to Sadler's Wells musical of Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

Betty's size 3 milk chocolate egg decorated with sugar-paste spring flowers, £14.95 plus £4.60 p&p



Frances Bissell, *The Times* cook; Glen Purcell, hotel chef; Helge Rubenstein, writer; Meredith Tillman, aged eight

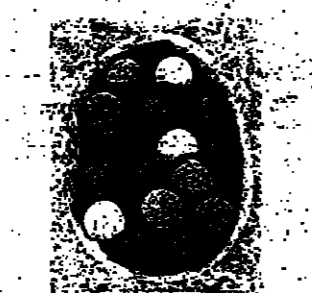
Cadbury's Milk Tray egg with separate milk chocolate assortment, £5.75

Frances: It's not for me. Helge: This one has a caramelized taste — the standard "English" chocolate. I would guess it's Cadbury's rather than Continental.

Glen: This is the best one I've tried so far. It has a traditional milk chocolate taste. A good kid's chocolate.

Meredith: A bit chewy. Panel score: 8

Heal's own-label 1 lb half plain chocolate egg filled with assorted truffles, £5.95



Frances: Very pleasant with a thick, rich, intense flavour that's not too sweet.

Helge: This isn't as sweet as some of the others and there is a little real chocolate flavour.

Glen: A bit nutty. Quite nice. Meredith: Quite a nice taste but a bit heavy to chomp. Panel score: 8

Mars' coconut-shaped Bounty egg with two Bounty bars, £2.49

Frances: Milk chocolate with some flavour other than chocolate. I don't like this much.

Helge: Terrible. You hardly know you are tasting chocolate, just sweetness.

Glen: Not a great taste. Meredith: Tastes milky and quite smooth. Panel score: 5

Harrods' dark chocolate egg filled with assorted plain chocolates, £25

Frances: Very dark and bitter, smooth, elegant with a pleasant aftertaste. I like this one.

Helge: I like this one. It tastes dark and bitter and has a lovely flavour.

Glen: Quite smooth and full of flavour. Meredith: Tastes a bit minty. Panel score: 10

Easter chicks. Betty's chocolate Broody Hen sits on a chocolate basket containing milk chocolate eggs, £6.05 and £14.50. Please add £4.60 p&p each. Order by phone (0423) 531211 today or tomorrow for pre-Easter delivery.

● Thornton's eggs can be iced, free of charge, with an Easter message or name, at branches nationwide. Catering in taste for adults and children, the range includes a white chocolate egg containing white chocolate drops, £2.25; a milk chocolate egg in a colourful chicken-shaped box, £2.75; and a top-of-the-range egg with a selection of Continental chocolates, £15.95.

● Rowntree Macintosh's individual mini eggs — Minty eggs 19p, Toffy and Mallow 19p, and Smarties Eggheads 30p — make good gifts for children. New from Rowntree Macintosh are the Nestlé's Milk Chocolate Bunnies, £1.25, and Convey Thrillpack, £3.59, containing separate Rolo, Yorkie and Aero eggs.

● New lines from Swiss confectioner Lindt include Classic, £9.50, a luxury milk chocolate egg with praline-filled miniatures.

● Entering the character merchandising arena this year, Tesco's own-label Easter offering comprises a Flintstones egg at 75p and a Flintstones egg in a mug at £1.85.

● For men, Kinnerton's has developed its Black Tie and Playboy Bunny ranges. The Bunny, which has a fluffy white tail, costs £3.75.

● Holland & Barrett's eggs are made on carob, yogurt and sugar-free chocolate, providing

Suchard's milk chocolate Toblerone egg with mini eggs inside and separate bar of Toblerone, £3.99

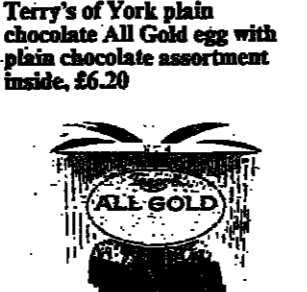


Frances: Milk chocolate and truffle. Rich flavour — creamy, silky. This might convert me to milk chocolate.

Helge: Awful. Just tastes of sweetness. There's only the illusion of chocolate and I don't like the way it irritates the back of my throat.

Glen: Doesn't taste like chocolate to me. Meredith: Very nice. It's got a smooth flavour. Panel score: 7

Terry's of York plain chocolate All Gold egg with plain chocolate assortment inside, £6.20



Frances: Dark chocolate, but it has a strangely bland initial flavour with an acidic quality to it. No finish or intensity.

Helge: Tastes scented and terribly sweet. Glen: It's a bit like cooking chocolate; cheap tasting. Meredith: Very nice. Panel score: 5

Kinnerton's Black Tie egg, with separate box of praline hearts and Champagne truffles, £3.99

Frances: Medium dark with a very thin shell. A "watery" finish, like cocoa.

Helge: Not bad. Quite smooth with a nice full flavour. Panel score: 9

● Sainsbury's does not have an own-label egg, but branches carry a wide range of branded eggs for adults and children with prices ranging from 75p for a milk chocolate Paddington Bear to £9.99 for Terry's 1767 egg.

● One of this season's most luxurious eggs is Bendicks of Mayfair's gold-leaf-wrapped First Edition egg, £29.95, a dark chocolate, hand-made, hand-decorated egg presented on a silk bed scattered with imitation rosebuds. From Bendicks, 46 Curzon Street, W1 (01-629 4389).

● Elizabeth Shaw's 10-egg range includes the company's best-selling Bailey's egg, £6.50, and the new Dark Chocolate Mini Crisp egg, £7.50 with 200g drum of mint crisp. A Harveys Liqueur Truffle egg, £8.99 is also new to the range.

● Celebrating its 60th year as an Easter egg manufacturer, Terry's of York Chocolate Orange egg, the company's biggest seller last year, costs £2.49 and contains nine mini chocolate orange drops and a gift card. A handy greetings card also comes with Deco, £2.75, from Terry's Moonlight range, all presented in Twenties-style boxes. Terry's top-of-the-range 1767 egg, £9.99, with its distinctive red seal, will appeal to shoppers with a taste for luxury.

● New eggs from Cadbury's include Truffle, £3.25, containing a selection of milk, white and plain chocolate-covered fruit and nut clusters, inspirations, £3.75, comes in a drawer-style presentation box, and Cœur Passion, £1.99, in a heart-covered box containing plain and white chocolate praline hearts.

● Shop countrywide are stocking Mars' new eggs-in-mugs — a Mellow egg in a Winkle-the-Pooh pottery mug, £2.99, and M&M's mug egg, £2.49.

● All Marks & Spencer stores stock own-brand milk chocolate eggs, with eight milk chocolate time-lag eggs, £2.99, a milk chocolate egg with milk, plain and white chocolates, £4.99. A children's assortment egg costs £1.99. Selected stores offer a Swiss milk chocolate half egg, £7.99, and a box of nine milk chocolate eggs with assorted fillings, £2.25.

● Newcomers to Bassett's Easter line-up include a traditional Liqueur Alcorce egg, £2.49, and Mr Men milk chocolate egg, filled with fruiting shapes.

● The top-selling Suchard eggs are Classic, £2.99, filled with mini eggs, and Twilight, £3.95, a large egg chocolate egg filled with after-dinner mint crisp.

● Asda has a good selection of children's eggs including favourites such as Bassett's Dennis the Menace egg, 99p, and Suchard's Rolo Chocolate egg, £5.99. For adults, Elizabeth Shaw's liqueur truffle egg, £8.99.



Harrods' dark chocolate egg filled with assorted plain chocolates, £25

Glen: I'm not really into dark chocolate but I like this. Meredith: Quite smooth. Tastes a bit like coffee. Panel score: 9

Holland & Barrett's dairy-free carob egg with carob assortment inside, £4.99

Frances: Dark, yes, but is this really chocolate? It has a quite un-chocolate like texture, slightly fudgy. There's no chocolate flavour. Is it carob? Pleasant enough but surely hors de combat!

Helge: I can't believe this is sold as chocolate. It bends rather than breaks and has no taste at all.

Glen: I'd call this "off fudge". It goes to powder in the mouth. Meredith: I didn't like this one. It's too soft and chewy. Panel score: 3

Bendicks of Mayfair's hand-made dark chocolate Limited Edition egg with assorted chocolates inside, £29.95

Frances: Dark chocolate with a thick, bitter, agreeable taste. Helge: I like this one. There isn't a particularly strong flavour but it is quite smooth.

Glen: The taste stays in your mouth, which I don't care for. Meredith: The best because it has a really nice flavour. Panel score: 9

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EGGSTRA!

● Godiva's biggest egg — dark hazelnut chocolate containing a chocolate assortment — weighs well over 3lb and costs £82.95, from Godiva's London outlets at Brompton Arcade, Knightsbridge, 150 Finchchurch Street, EC1; and Richoux, Restaurant, South Audley Street, W1.

● Hear's own-brand plain chocolate eggs come with assorted chocolates and cost £2.25 (4oz) and £2.25 (7oz). A half 1lb plain chocolate egg filled with assorted truffles costs £5.95.

● Hear's, 180 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (01-638 1655).

● Fill a boxed chocolate shell (plain, milk or white) with your own selection of truffles or chocolates. Prices from £6.25 per 1lb egg, £12.50 for a 1lb egg, at Roboco Chocolates, 321 King's Road, SW3 (01-582 6857). Personal callers only.

● Boots offers three diabetic Easter eggs at £1.69, £2.09 and £2.25 each.

● Betty's Tea Rooms, in Harrogate, York, Northampton and New, is renowned for delicious hand-made cakes and confectionery. It offers mail-order, handmade Easter eggs. The decorations are elaborate with chocolate pussy willows, sugar-paste spring flowers and yellow Easter chicks. Prices start at £6.25 for a milk chocolate nest containing two praline-filled Song-thrush eggs and an Easter chick. A dark chocolate egg decorated with blueberries costs £11.55, as does a white chocolate egg with pussy willow and

England face fight for survival

From Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent
Bridgetown, Barbados

ENGLAND were yesterday condemned to an arduous fight for survival in the fourth Cable and Wireless Test, as Carlisle Best carried the West Indies to an intimidating total at Kensington Oval.

Best's marathon of stroke-making was only one headache for England as they approached this second day with the weary resignation of players who know their fate.

Contrary to all expectations, the pitch was beginning to behave inconsistently enough to suggest that batting will become steadily more hazardous.

It was one of those pivotal mornings on which two or three quick wickets could swiftly have altered the shape of the game. On a pitch as good as this one, had seemed to be on Thursday, 350 would not have appeared formidable, and it was the West Indies' capacity for collapse which comforted England overnight. Early inroads with the new ball, which saw service for only three deliveries on Thursday, and their foot-slogging of the first day might not have seemed so fruitless.

The opening day had ended amid chaotic scenes, dozens of spectators invading the pitch to lift Best on their shoulders as he completed his maiden Test century at the age of 30. For some years, Best has been a nearly-man, hovering on the fringes of the West Indies team, outstanding in domestic cricket, but never quite commanding the undivided attention of the selectors.

This is only his sixth Test, but his tenure is now confirmed and the toothy grin that is his trademark never left his face as his fans tossed him in the air like a rag doll. "Faith and confidence kept me going all the time I was out of the West Indies team," he explained later. "I do not allow myself to get too anxious, like I did before, and I always perform best under pressure."

Nothing had changed when play resumed yesterday. Once again, it was Malcolm bowling to Best, and a night's rest had plainly not altered the pecking order. Best had promised to "plod on" towards a second century, and if plod was not quite the appropriate word for his scoring rate, there was still no sign of an end to him.

The second biggest cheer of the first evening had greeted another, more reluctant centurion. Malcolm had seemed gloomily destined for 0-100 from quite early in the day, and as the figures clocked up on the scoreboard, the Bajan majority in the crowd celebrated as if a shadow had been lifted from their team.

In a sense, so it had. Richards' assault on Malcolm had been as deliberate as it was dramatic and Lamb's dubious decision to take the bowler off before Richards could get at him again left the West Indian captain in undeniable control.

Malcolm's mistake had been to bowl consistently short on a pitch which did not support it. With the ball coming on at even pace and height, his one hope of wickets relied on reckless batting. West Indies have been known



Arms and the man: The Barbados crowd reaches out to mob Best as the West Indies batsman celebrates a maiden Test century at Bridgetown

WEST INDIES				
First Innings				
C G Greenidge c Russell b DeFreitas	41	6	108	77
D J L Haynes c Stewart b Small	0	0	9	4
R B Richardson c Russell b Small	45	8	144	88
C A Best not out	159	2	7	151
V A Richardson c Russell b Capel	70	2	7	151
A L Lister c Russell b Capel	31	6	88	110
J P J L Dujon b Capel	31	5	132	74
M D Marshall c Lamb b Small	4	1	12	5
C E L Ambrose not out	4	0	0	0
Extras (7 wickets)	25			
Total (7 wickets)	408			

1 R Shephard, E A Moseley to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-89, 3-108, 4-227, 5-291, 6-385, 7-408.
BOWLING: Malcolm 25-3-129-0 (Ov); Small 30.2-5-82-3; DeFreitas 26-3-90-1 (4 Ov); Capel 24-5-88-3 (2 Ov).
ENGLAND: W Larkins, A J Stewart, R J Bailey, A J Lamb, R A Smith, N Hussain, D J Capel, R C Russell, P A J DeFreitas, G C Small, D E Maloney; D Archer and I Barber.

to trade liberally in this, but it hardly excused such brainless bowling.

Dujon has been short of runs so far in the series and he plainly saw yesterday as the chance to correct the matter. Surviving a wild thrash at the first ball he received from Malcolm, he cut him uppishly for four and then snipped his head back as the next one was predictably shorter and unexpectedly straight.

Malcolm, now bowling to only two slips and a ring of fielders saving one, saw Best treat a respectable leg stump yorker with disdain, whipping it through mid-wicket for four. He reacted in the usual way and Best, rocking back, played a remarkable short-arm pull, which rocketed past the bowler's right hand on its way to the straight boundary.

This was drum-roll batting, noisily appreciated by another 10,000 crowd on a day of exhausting heat. But, even as Best pushed on towards 150, there were more worrying things happening for England consumption than the clicking of the scoreboard. The pitch was showing alarming signs of deterioration.

More than one delivery from Small to Best kept low

and, when Capel took over from the same end, two balls in an over reared unpleasantly at Dujon, one taking him on the chest from a good length.

Best reached 150 in 395 minutes with his seventeenth four, a fluent cover drive against Small. The century stand took only a little more than two hours, Dujon making only 27 of them, and he had added just four to his score when Capel bowled him with one which scarcely left the ground.

This provided some consolation for the persevering Capel, the first time in his Test career he has taken three wickets in an innings.

Given the state of the game, it was not something he was likely to celebrate overmuch. England took another wicket in the final over of the morning, when Marshall was caught at slip off Small, but, by then, the West Indies were past 400 and in total control.

Mark Nicholas, the captain of the England A team this winter, was yesterday discharged from the Barbados hospital where he has been under intensive treatment for malaria. Nicholas is likely to stay on the island recuperating for the next week before flying home.

The Best century of his life after years of promises

Bridgetown

AT THE end of the first day, the West Indians had reached Harrods in the lead, with clear water separating them from England. On the second day of this high stakes Test match, they began to exploit the long Hammersmith bend.

In short, the cricket began to assume a professional quality. To those of us who had been present during the whitewash series of 1984 and the winter of 1986, let alone The Summer of the Five Captains in 1988, it was a return to the familiar. It was as if the game had ceased to be a competition and became a ritual: an old established rite in which English cricket is sacrificed on the altar of Caribbean excellence.

The series has, till now, comprised day after day of pinch-me-to-see-if-I'm-dreaming sort of cricket. And it has enthralled everyone. Even in the enclosed world of Formula One motor racing, the fascinated disbelief caught hold: in Brazil a fortnight ago, mechanics, PR people and drivers kept asking me about the latest score from Port of Spain.

Well, if there was a fault in reality, it appears to have been repaired. There is nothing to do but sit back and enjoy the batting. England showed great character, you might say, to restrict their opponents to a mere four an over. It has been relentless rather than spectacular. It has certainly been crushing.

The innings has centred on Carlisle Alonzo Best, batsman and space cadet. He has been a promising young man for years: for more than a decade.



He is now 30, and just as boyish as ever.

It is only his sixth Test, and this his first Test century. He has waited long enough for it — and his delight in his achievement has been the high point of this match thus far. The crowd was as happy as he was. Best ("Bessie") is a Bajan himself, and one held in enormous affection.

He is loved as much for his frailties, as in spite of them: the frailties of temperament that have kept him a fringe candidate for the big boys' team until now. He is a kind of Bajan Virginia Wade, and the incredulous delight that greeted his century reminded me of Ginny's win at Wimbledon: elation and disbelief mixed half-and-half.

I hear one said something about Best. In the 1986 series, Best had the bizarre habit of giving radio commentaries to himself as he was batting. Phil Edmonds, mostly fielding at short leg, used to listen amazed as Best chattered on: "And Best is right behind that... pats the wicket and returns to his crease, there's no run."

Edmonds, something of a space cadet himself, always rather enjoyed it. But more orthodox short leg but have teased and sledged Best out of the habit. I hope he was commenting silently to himself, all the same, at his moment of triumph, one he reached in style with a

murderous pull off Malcolm. Alas, poor Malcolm. After two glorious matches, reality has claimed him. The wild sprayer of the ball was back: his fantasy life, it seemed, had ended. He reached his personal century (of runs conceded) before Best did, and he took fewer balls about it as well. Sport can sometimes be very unamusing for its practitioners.

It has its compensations, though. Best, lifted shoulder-high on a tidal wave of joyful Bajan, has had the time of his life. Things sometimes taste all the better for long deprivation. "I am happy," he said. "I am elated. I am extremely overjoyed."

As to his long absence from the West Indies squad, he said bafflingly: "I never thought about it." It was the remark of a true space cadet.

But he has been batting quite beautifully; and more or less chancelessly. It has been a classic innings of watchfulness on the good 'uns, and an assault of uninhibited glee on anything wallflopable. And for the radio team that inhabit Best's head, it has been the commentary of a lifetime.

Aintree claims fourth victim as stakes rise

By Michael Seely, Racing Correspondent

Graham McCourt was standing by last night to ride Against the Grain in the Seagram Grand National at Aintree today after Mark Dwyer had bruised his left hand in a fall from Native Friend yesterday.

McCourt became free to take the mount after The Thinker, third in the National last year and joint top weight this time, had been withdrawn because of the firm going. McCourt said: "I definitely won't be riding Monamore. If Mark doesn't pass the doctor, I'll be on Against the Grain."

However, Dwyer said later: "I should be all right, it only aggravated an old injury." In as unpleasant a fall as one could see, Native Friend was killed when duelling for the lead at the final flight of the Glenlivet Hurdle with his stable companion, the eventual 25-1 winner, Sybillion.

There have been four fatal accidents in the first two days of the three-day meeting. Peter Scudamore, the champion jockey, said: "It's just bad luck and nothing to do with the National course at all. One horse was killed in a fall at the first and the other two completed the course but sustained injuries. Perhaps horses could be feeling the pace on the very firm ground in very competitive races. Horses are pretty tired by the time they reach the last, as they have been racing from a long way out."

On the prevailing fast going, the winning time in the John Hughes Memorial Trophy on Thursday beat the track record by 3½ seconds. Red Rum's 1973 National record of 9min 1.9sec is obviously at risk today.

Before the start this afternoon, the senior steward will, as usual, warn the 40 jockeys of the risks of going too fast in the early stages.

Yesterday Dick Saunders, who won the 1982 National as a jockey on Grittar, was in the chair. "We'll ask them to go steady, but they probably won't take much notice, as everyone wants to get a good position. They are generally flat to the boards as far as the third fence before they settle down."

As the nation embarks on its annual gambling spree on the world's greatest steeplechase, 15 million punters are expected to bet a total of £50million. Over 70,000 fans are expected at Aintree and another 300 million will be watching worldwide on television.

Brown Windsor, a fast ground specialist, has been backed down from 33-1 to 7-1 favourite in recent months and a victory for Nick Henderson's eight-year-old would cost Hills and Corals alone £1million.

John White, the favourite's jockey, said: "I'm looking forward to the ride. Brown Windsor is in tremendous form. They should go pretty quick on the going, but Brown Windsor won over 2½ miles at Cheltenham and should have no trouble in going the gallop."

Late gambles developed on Bigsun, Durham Edition and Rinus. "All these horses won't mind the ground and their jockeys have good records at Aintree," said Mike Dillon of Ladbrokes.

Neale Doughty, who has completed the course four times in as many rides, will be attempting to repeat his 1984 win on Hallo Dandy for Gordon Richards, the Cumbria trainer.

In napping Rinus, I fear Bigsun and take Mr Frisk to fill third place. "Mr Frisk is a great jumper, but my nightmare is that I will land in front on the flat only to be run out of it by Brown Windsor or Bigsun," said Marcus Armyley.

Grand National guide, pages 52-53

London, had taken on the obligations to fulfil the contracts of Macworth, another corporate hospitality which occupied the same building as Falcon Leisure but had now ceased to trade.

However, a spokesman for Aintree said yesterday: "No badges have been knowingly sold to either Falcon Leisure or Macworth as companies, although it is possible that some have been sold individually or in small groups." County enclosure badges for today cost £27 but they were all sold weeks ago.

Penny Penny, the spokesman for Falcon Leisure, said that the problem had been "sorted out" and the badges, which had been obtained from Aintree, had been dispatched.

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Heart risk threat of new drug

By John Goodbody

THE American manufacturer of a drug which helps competitors improve their stamina by increasing their red blood cell count have had reports that it is available on the black market in Europe at up to £50 per 1,000 units.

The journal *General Practitioner* said that no study had been carried out on the dangers to athletes in taking EPO, a genetically engineered copy of a natural hormone, erythropoietin, but some doctors believe that by increasing red blood cell count, they risk a stroke or heart attack.

The maximum recommended dose of the drug, which is used therapeutically in the treatment of anaemia, is 100 units per kilogram of bodyweight, three times a week for eight weeks. A competitor taking this course could spend over £9,000 before a major event.

Two years ago, Professor Arnold Beckert, a member of the International Olympic Committee Medical Commission, suggested that the drug, which is manufactured by Amgen in the United States, should contain "markers", additives that would not alter the chemical properties of a drug but would make it identifiable in testing.

FA names its price for Cup

By Clive White

THE Football Association insisted yesterday that it would hold out for a sponsorship of £5 million a year over five years for its prestigious FA Cup competition, the oldest in the world. The FA also made it known that they were willing to incorporate the name of the sponsors into the competition's title.

Bert Millichip, the FA chairman, is adamant that £5 million is the minimum figure that would be acceptable for a competition that commands worldwide television audience of over 100 million but Glen Kirton, the director of external affairs, said that they were "nowhere near" concluding a deal with anyone yet.

The Football League are also looking for a new sponsor for their own competition, for which the Littlewoods sponsorship ends this season.

Brian Hillier, the Swindon Town chairman, had his sentence for his part in the recent betting scandal increased on appeal when he appeared before the Football Association at Lancaster Gate yesterday.

The FA disciplinary committee, which was chaired by Bert Millichip, who is also the FA chairman, decided that the original punishment imposed upon Hillier of six months' suspension from all activities

when Nottingham Forest play Oldham Athletic at Wembley on April 29. The League, whose sponsorship of the competition is worth £750,000 a year, is pushing for at least £1 million for any new contract.

A ticket distribution for this year's FA Cup final on May 11 will be different from previous years, depending on the size of the clubs who contest the final. If Manchester United and Liverpool reach the final their share will be 20,000 tickets each, as it would be for a Crystal Palace-Oldham final. But should a big club and a relatively smaller one reach the final, the ticket distribution would be 26,000 to the larger club and 14,000 to the smaller.

The capacity of Wembley stadium, now that it is all-seater, is 78,500. The FA said that the Director General of

the game was insufficient and increased it to three years.

The penalty imposed on Lou Macari, the former Swindon manager, for his part in the illegal bet which was placed on an FA Cup tie involving his own club, stands. The £1,000 fine against Macari was deemed to be adequate.

Fair Trading approved of the principle, following complaints from their Liverpool department two years ago that too many tickets had fallen into the wrong hands. It was agreed that the new principle was fairer.

The FA also announced that it would permit any replay of tomorrow's FA Cup semi-finals to be shown live by BBC next Wednesday should the Corporation request it. ITV are scheduled to show the Arsenal-Aston Villa League game live the same evening. Graham Kelly, the FA Chief Executive, conceded that difficulties in television scheduling was something that they needed to sort out with the League.

Kelly unveiled yesterday new plans to control the development of the Nations young playing talent. He proposes a national curriculum

for the development of youngsters from the ages of 11 to 14 which would restrict too many competitive games and 11-a-side matches on full size pitches.

"It seems to me there is far too much pressure upon boys to achieve results. Until now there hasn't been a collective resolve to do anything about it. There should be a National plan covering nine to 16-year-olds rather than 11-14 with the whole thing controlled by the FA, the League and the English Schools FA."

It is the view of Kelly that this is the only way forward for the national game. His blue-print for the future was drawn up in association with Bobby Robson, the England Manager and Charles Hughes, the FA's Director of coaching.

More football, page 49

deal with the club after three years.

The club recently sold their Sealand Road ground to a Scottish construction company and will be forced to play all their home games at a neutral venue, possibly Naughton Park, the home of Widnes rugby league club, until the completion of a new, £2 million stadium in 12 months' time.

Simon Barnes's sporting diary, page 10

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The Times reports from the Masters tournament at Augusta National

Realists scorn Donald's lead

From Mitchell Platt
Golf Correspondent
Augusta, Georgia

NICK Faldo began his second round in the 54th Masters here yesterday seven strokes behind Mike Donald, of the United States, but far from disappointed.

Faldo is a realist and he knew that to be chasing Donald, whose 64 tied the first round tournament record established in 1940 by Lloyd Mangrum, and John Huston (66) was more comforting than to be in the slipstream of a Severiano Ballesteros or Greg Norman.

It is common for players like Donald and Huston, both in their first Masters, to lead in the first round; rare for them to still be there on Sunday evening. "The slums of Chicago are full of first round leaders," Peter Jacobsen, who

held third place following an opening 67, said. "I've been out here a long time and I've learned what you do on Thursday and Friday doesn't mean much."

Donald is a resident of Hollywood, Florida, but by his own admission he could not be accused of playing a star role on the US Tour. He has won only one tournament since becoming a professional in 1978. It would not be exaggerating the point to suggest that his 64 was born in fantasy land.

"When I was a youngster I dreamed of playing the Mas-

ters but I never dreamed of shooting a round like that," Donald, aged 34, said. "It was the round of my life. I actually felt like I had won the tournament."

He is perceived to be the quintessential blue-collar worker on the US Tour, which is not surprising. In 1988 he played in 40 tournaments and finished only 96th on the money list. Last year, when he teed-up in 38 tournament, was something of a watershed as he won for the first time. Success in the Anheuser-Busch Classic gave him his passport to the Masters.

Donald deserved to bask in glory even if his 64, on a first day of uninterrupted sunshine, could be the product of him not reading the script. The entire cast was supposed to be scared of the greens. Donald, however, felt head over heels in love with them.

He holed from 40 feet at the fourth and with that he began a run of eight birdies in 12 holes. He was out in 31, which equalled the first-nine record set by Mark Lye in 1984, by holing three putts of between 15 and 20 feet and by chipping in from 40 feet at the ninth.

Donald was within sight of equaling the course record of 63, which Nick Price established in 1986, when he stood on the 18th tee but he was more than content to escape

Card of the course

Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	400	4	10	485	4
2	555	5	11	485	4
3	380	4	12	155	3
4	255	3	13	485	4
5	435	4	14	405	4
6	180	3	15	300	3
7	360	4	16	170	3
8	535	5	17	400	4
9	435	4	18	405	4

Out 3,485 36 In 3,440 36
Total yardage: 6,925 Par 72

with a par following a drive which finished in the trees.

Donald was well aware as he began his second round alongside Huston that history is against him. Fuzzy Zoeller (1979) is the only player to have won the Masters at his first attempt and in the 1980s only two players, Ballesteros (1980) and Ben Crenshaw (1984), led after the first round and went on to win. "For a while, at least, people might remember that Mike Donald led the Masters," Donald said. It seemed that Faldo, unlike Donald, had read the script. He took three putts from six feet at the 16th where Ballesteros needed four putts. "I felt as if I'd really be screwed," Faldo said. "I was proud of that six-iron shot there and you would think that if you hit it to that distance then you have half a chance. I think the greens are quicker this year. They probably did try to slow them down on Thursday but the sun

and the wind dried them out." Bernhard Langer finished stronger than Faldo so that, with a birdie at the 15th and another at the 17th, he led the European challenge with a 70 after the first round. Jose Maria Olazábal, Ronan Rafferty and Ian Woosnam all scored 72 to be alongside, among others, Jack Nicklaus, who last weekend won his first tournament on the US Seniors Tour.

Nicklaus, who has won a record six Masters, had some comforting words for Ballesteros, who walked from the course with a face like thunder after a 74, and advice too for his playing partner Greg Norman, who took 78. "Before everybody gets excited about those low scores on Thursday you must remember that we know that everybody comes back to par in this tournament," Nicklaus said. "And that is probably what is going to happen in this year's event."

Not that Ballesteros and Norman were the only victims on the first day. For Tom Watson (77), Sandy Lyle (77), Stephen Dodd (77), the amateur champion from Wales, Lee Trevino (78), Craig Parry (80), of Australia, and Paul Azinger, who had a ten at the 13th in his 80, the first priority as the second round unfolded was to survive the halfway cut.



Lip trembler: Severiano Ballesteros unhappy with his form at the Augusta Masters

An old master staying firmly in the picture

AUGUSTA, Georgia (AP) — His right shoulder hurt so much he could not tee the ball up or take it out of the hole. He hit most of his shots "far" because of arthritis, which limits his swing to a defensive flinch. Asked what he shot, Gene Sarazen replied: "My age, 88."

He and his 76-year-old partner, Sam Snead, played nine holes in an hour and 16 minutes, then left the Augusta National Golf Club to young golfing lions of another era.

There were two highlights of the day for Sarazen, the official starter of the Masters. "The first one was, I was thankful to be alive and hitting the ball on the first tee," said the wisecracking "Squire."

"The other was a 60-foot par putt on the 8th green. My shoulder hurt like hell, but it was a pretty day. There's no course in the world like this one."

Of course, Sarazen had a better day in 1935, when he made the most famous shot in Masters history, 220 yards with a four-wood that went into the hole for an albatross on the 500-yard 15th.

The shot got Sarazen into a play-off, and he beat Craig Wood the next day to win the Green Jacket.

That single stroke made Sarazen's career. On Thursday, he played in his 34th Masters, from the men's regular tees. He has been the

honorary starter since 1981.

"I feel I'm part of this place, and as long as I'm alive I'll come up [from Marcos Island, Florida] and play," Sarazen said. "The worst thing about being 88 is you shuffle your feet. You can't pick 'em up."

Sarazen said he only plays nine holes, once a week. "It's my doctor's orders," he said. "He makes me play once a week. He told me to play whether I play well or not."

Sarazen said he has been stunned by the size of the crowds he has seen this year at the Masters. "We used to play before 50 or 60 people early in the week, and now they're talking about it getting too big and limiting ticket sales," he said.

Sarazen was besieged by autograph seekers as he drove his golf cart away from the 9th green. "It's nice to see you, keep coming back and playing," a spectator shouted. Sarazen smiled. "I'll be back, if I'm living," he said.

Oddly, Sarazen has not visited the site of his famous shot in over a decade. He does not play the inward nine any more. "I think it has been 15 years since I've been back there," Sarazen said. Why? "It's too far to walk."

With that, Sarazen left to fly back to Florida and watch the Masters on television. "I'll tune it in when they get to the back nine on Sunday," he said. "That's when this tournament starts."

FIRST ROUND SCORES

(US unless stated)

64: M Donald.
65: J Huston.
66: P Jacobsen.
68: B Britton.
70: G Archer, R Floyd, B Langer (WG), L Mize, C Strange, B Glasson, M Ozaki.
71: T Purzser, A North, S Hoch, N Faldo (GB), P Stewart, C Patton, D Hammond, M Hulbert.
72: R Tway, J Mahaffey, R Rafferty (GB), C Beck, W Grady (Aus), P Senior (Aus), L Waddins, F Zoeller, I Woosnam (GB), C Snider, Crenshaw, J-M Olazábal.
73: D Pooley, H Green, B McCullough, R Gomez, G Player (SA), S Ballesteros (Sp).
74: W Casper, D Frost (SA), B Claar, L Nelson, J Maud, M McInnes, M Calzaguetia, D Ishii, F Couples, T Pernice, S Simpson.
75: T Armour III, T Schult, T Kite, M O'Meara, N Ozaki (Japan), C Goody, M Lyle.
76: A Bean, C Byrum, T Hobby, A Palmer, G Brewer (Ir).
77: T Aaron, T Byrum, I Baker-Finch (Aus), T Watson, S Jones, T Simpson, S Dodd (GB), A Lyle (GB), W Levy, T Sills.
78: G Norman (Aus), D Ford, K Green, L Trevino.
79: D Green, J Sturman, D Forsman.
80: C Perry (Aus), R Thompson, P Azinger.
81: H Sutton.
82: J W Taylor.
83: S Ballesteros (Sp).
84: S Ballesteros (Sp).

MOTOR RACING

Finns may be extended by British drivers

By Stephen Slater

The Finnish drivers, Mika Hakkinen and Mika Salo, are expected to face stiff opposition from British drivers in the second round of the British Formula three championship at Silverstone tomorrow.

The Finns occupied the first two places in the inaugural race at Donington last weekend, with the Londoner, Steve Robertson, in third place, but other British drivers have been working hard to redress the balance.

Silverstone is ideally suited to Formula Three cars, which have excellent aerodynamics and grip through the fast corners. Paul Stewart and Derek Higgins of the Milton Keynes-based Paul Stewart Racing Team both lapped the track at a record-breaking average of almost 120mph while fine-tuning their cars last week. Higgins's test session came to an abrupt end when the car spun out of control into a wall. Fortunately, both Higgins and car survived serious damage and are expected to be front-runners this weekend. A new model of car will be seen on the track for the first time at Silverstone this weekend. The 2.8 litre, turbo-charged Nissan Skyline of Keith Odor will be challenging the Ford Sierra Cosworths.

FOOTBALL

Chigwellians favourites for the double

By George Chesterton

THE Old Chigwellians and Old Reptonians meet in the Arthur Dunn final at 3pm today on the London University ground at Moots Park, the first time the two sides have met in the last stage of the competition.

The Chigwellians are enjoying the best season in their history, and are currently three points clear in the premier division of the Arthurian League, with several matches in hand. They have twice been in the final before, winning in 1980, and must be the favourites to do the double this time.

This year, they have beaten Highgate, Wellesborough and Winchester in earlier rounds of the competition.

The Reptonians have an impressive record, having been in 19 finals, winning the Cup on 10 occasions, their most recent success being in 1987. Six players from that final will take the field today, although Blakesley, a key man, is not available. Repton have disposed of Ardingly, Eton and Brentwood, the last match going their way by the odd goal in a close struggle.

Steve Ogilvie, the Coventry City goalkeeper, makes his 400th professional appearance against Derby County.



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SPORTSWEAR

مكتبات الأمل

By Nicolas Soames

The Japanese are also look-

In the women's event, the Commonwealth lightweight champion, Loretta Doyle, and her close rival, Nicola Fairbrother, will have to contend with two Japanese in their weight; and Kate Howey, aged 16, who won the world junior title last week, is making her bid for senior European selection over the Commonwealth champion, Sharon Mills.

Over you go: Fumiko Esaki, of Japan, throws her countrywoman, Milako Tshikawa, during training for the British Open at Crystal Palace

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

These are that players from clubs in the national first and

He cites the case of Graham Childs, the North centre, who progressed from Northumberland to the divisional team this season and is now a member of the England development squad. "There has to be a way for an ambitious player to advance without

Sentiment suggests that Steadman, the Middlesex captain, who is retiring at the end of this season, would be a fitting recipient of the winner's trophy. Certainly, his side have thrown down the gauntlet with the selection of Thompson at stand-off half, because he will want to run the ball and take play away from the big Lancashire forwards. Kimmins and company, though, are a formidable obstacle around which to run.

The Union has been reticent about how the money will be used but says it will be up to the League Management Committee. The sponsorship extends to Whitbread's current involvement with the Merit Table but it is Heineken's first major involvement in rugby.

Ron Waldron, the national coach, added: "I think it's superb. It will give the League the financial basis for the success it's going to be."

By Alan Loximer

Equally entertaining should be today's Gala Sevens at Esher, the first of the orders spring sevens tournaments. Saltaire, who will be bidding for a third title at Gala, include Peter Winterbottom, the England flanker, in their line-up. On the other side Andre Dent, Simon Hunter and Everton Davies are experienced sevens exponenters, a team drawn from Harle-

John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent of The Times from 1954 to 1987, gives his views on proposals to extend next winter's Ashes tour and draws a contrast with the demands of touring in the past.

FINAL ONE-DA

Each night the players would be welcomed in such well known watering holes as the Singapore Cricket Club, the Bengal Club, The Sind Club and The Gezira Club. Having left Southampton on the *Stirling Castle*, on August 31, 1946, a ship still under "war transport" and carrying servicemen, sweethearts and brides to Australia, a fortnight before the end of one English season, they got home on April 14, 1947, just before the start of the next, after being away for seven and a half months.

More encouraging about England's provisional itinerary for next winter is the reintroduction of a couple of missionary, up-country cricketers of Western Australia and South Australia will be looking forward to the day when they have the chance to bowl at Graham Gooch and rub shoulders with other of the game's big names.

Age	100	50	Cyles	
33.05	0	2	0	A J Lamb
32.05	0	1	7	R A Smith
32.00	1	1	3	G A Gooch
31.33	0	1	0	W Larkins
31.00	0	1	0	C R Russell
30.00	0	0	1	A J DeFreitas
29.55	0	0	0	D J Cooper
29.00	1	0	1	G C Small
1.50	0	0	0	A J Stewart
0.00	0	0	0	E E Hemmings
0.00	0	0	0	800 BATTLES (150

42: N Hussain 15: 1
not bat.

Bowling

[illegible]

with Maren in the second row, with Brown in the back row.

Leicester v L. Scottish

Three of Leicester's first-choice forwards return: Rory Underwood, Evans and Buttmore, against a weakened Scottish: McGuire (hooker), Simon Burnell (lock) and Searle (flanker) play their first games of the season.

Rosslyn Pk v Northampton

Park field Dixon (centre) and Carr (wing) in their backs and a second-choice back row of Dermick, Stratford and Brown. Information on the first at Rosslyn for Northampton, who play at home at Centre.

AT MUCH the same time as Saracens were losing Dean Ryan, their promising No. 8, the Wasps at the start of this season, the Wasps lost half their successful women's team to Saracens through with considerably greater consensus all round (David Hands writes).

Despite this Wasps have come through again to the final of the Women's RFU cup, for which they will meet Richmond at Rosslyn Park's Reclamation ground tomorrow. The same clubs contested last year's final, Richmond winning 12-10, but this season they have lost twice

Wasps in the league. However, Richmond came through a stern final with Saracens, whom they beat 10-8.

A

After their defeat in Italy where they lost their comfort zone lead and the match (17-15) England Colts will be keen to master their third successive win against Wales Youth whom they meet at Wrexham today.

J

MLBS YOUTH: J Westwood (Abercrombie), S. Jones (Cardiff), M. Williams (Tondu), S. Gibbs (Pontrynallan), P. Brown (Carmarthen), G. Thomas (Blackwood), N. Jenkins (Pontypridd), I. Jones (Olechnice), D. Thomas (Pontypool), R. Jones (Llanelli), K. Allen (New Dock), C. Jones (Trefgarra), D. Hughes (Gwent), A. Griffiths (Torquay), C. Goodwin (Hole), I. Castellanos (North Collis).

Waldron, the club coach and manager.

Paul Thorburn, Colin Laity and Chris Higgs are not available today. The centre position goes to Adrian Davies, the Cambridge Blue, who has only played twice in the North's season. Jonathan Griffiths plays a full back and Jason Bell appears on the wing.

North have already taken their opponents to the cleaners twice this season, beating them 2-12 at Swansea and 51-11 at home. But Swansea have done better. North in the cup competition, having beaten them twice.

Swansea have made swift progress this season, but if the families in the back division are similar, they have a young-and-rare raw pack of forwards. The back row is a double about Reynolds, on the flank who suffered a back injury in the long Kong sevens. Richard

Webster, whose knee injury has kept him out of the game for two seasons, is standing by as a replacement.

If Neenan's presence was seen as a formality, the appearance of Aberavon at this stage is something of a puzzle. They confront Bridgend at Stradey Park. Two years ago Aberavon could barely raise a team, such had been the waste with which players departed the club. Not much of a resurgence has happened this year, with only four wins in 16 games.

Yet they are a club who always give a good account of themselves in cup rugby. Despite a lack of any sustained influence in Welsh rugby over recent years they have nonetheless appeared in 10 semi-finals. They have reached the quarter-finals on two occasions, but lost both times.

Bridged won 23-10 when the clubs met last month. Inconsis-

[illegible]

By Richard Eaton

Hall has not beaten Frost since winning the title, and the seedings make the former world No. 1 the favourite. However, Hall can be mercurially brilliant on his day and Frost looked surprisingly vulnerable when losing in the quarter-finals of the

SIMON Larkin, of Nottingham

trophy for the third year running.

The Scullers Head is the largest single sculling event in the world. Since 1982, the race has been restricted to 500 entrants by the Port of London Authority, and more than 200 hopeful participants were disappointed this year.

While Redgrave competes in the Scullers Head, his pairs crew-mate, Simon Berrisford, will be in a Great Britain eight defending the San Diego Crew Classic title they won in 1989. Crews from the United States, the Soviet Union, Canada and West Germany are also com-

The British eight has three changes from the crew which won the Head of the River race. Redgrave and Stewart, both of Leander, will be replaced by Hulls and Walker, of London University, and Ellison, of Tide-way Scullers, takes over as coxswain from the Oxford coach, Pat Sweeney. The other crew members, from Leander and Star Club, remain.

DOMINIC Mahony, who earlier this week recalled his official grilling over drugs at the Seoul Olympics, will take centre stage again today, but this time competing for Britain in an international involving seven champions at Aldershot (Michael Coleman writes).

Mahony's two companions from the Olympics' bronze medal-winning team, Richard Phelps and Graham Gough, will not run, competing Phelps is injured and Gough picked up at the season's opening contest at San Antonio, Texas, while Brookhouse, the national champion, is preparing for a tougher competition at Nantes.

This gives room for Greg Whyte, who was tenth at San Antonio, and Shawn Morgan to further their claims for A team places before the world championships at Lahti, Finland, in July.

The Aldershot opposition looks testing, with Italy, Hungary, West Germany, the United States, Sweden and France, all giving senior swimmers similar tests.

— MICHAEL COLEMAN

By Sydney Friskin

The talent on hand weighed slightly in favour of Havana, whose side includes four members of the England World Cup team — Rowlands, Faulkner,

mill and Garcia. Stourport have lost the one World Cup participant — Stephen Taylor, the goalkeeper and captain. However, on their left flank is the Olympic gold medal-winner, Brian Sherwin, who, but for his own business commitments, would surely have gone to Melbourne for the World Cup.

The Havant right half, Robert Mill, will also command attention on his expertise at short corners, which he converts more often than not, with a devastating flick, and no doubt the England selectors will be watching him.

Team spirit, commitment and the temperament for the big occasion are the factors which will turn the match one way or the other, and there is the all-important matter of fitness, which will be severely tested. Added incentive is the prospect of playing in Europe, because the winners qualify for the Cup Winners' Cup next season.

Elsewhere, today's matches include the east semi-finals of the county championship at Nuneaton, where Northamptonshire will face Leicestershire, and Hertfordshire will play Essex. These matches will be followed by the final, and both teams will qualify for the national final.

The east runners-up will play Hampshire in the preliminary round on April 28, and the champions will meet either Leicestershire or Warwickshire in the quarter-finals on April 29.

FAHLS: Hoveant (probable): S Rowland; Foulkes (capt): P Cooper, R Hill, P Nisbet, J Lawson, M Coleman, R Garcia, L Williams, G Cooper, R Seabrook.

Leicestershire: Hoveant (probable): S Taylor (capt); N Chisnall, R Lee, D Bleach, J McPherson, J Roberts, J Watson, G Carlisle, J Knott, I Sherwin.

The touring team from Azerbaijan, calling itself Neftcheci, which had been invited to this country by Kent University, completed their fixtures on Thursday evening with a 4-2 win over Ahmadiyya Muslim Association at the Anchors Club in Gillingham Kent. They had earlier beaten Kent University 6-1, a Canterbury XI 6-0, and Gore Court 4-

by a Special Correspondent

STEWART Gilmour, the normally talkative coach of Linburne, was a man of few words yesterday on the eve of the most important match in the club's history. They play Stirling Albion this afternoon, and, if they can secure both points, the Paisley men — after twice appearing in the Scottish Cup final — will at last land their first national title.

Gilmour, like his players, has been feeling the pressure over the past few weeks, but they have been able to maintain a winning sequence which should bear fruition this afternoon. Their anxiety is understandable; Stirling are doing everything in their power to

Kelburne lead the table by three points, but these will be lost in pressure matches. Gilmour said: "We are treating every match as a cup final. In this

The champions will qualify for the European Cup next season and Kelburne, one of the country's most progressive clubs, could be about to give British hockey a welcome boost.

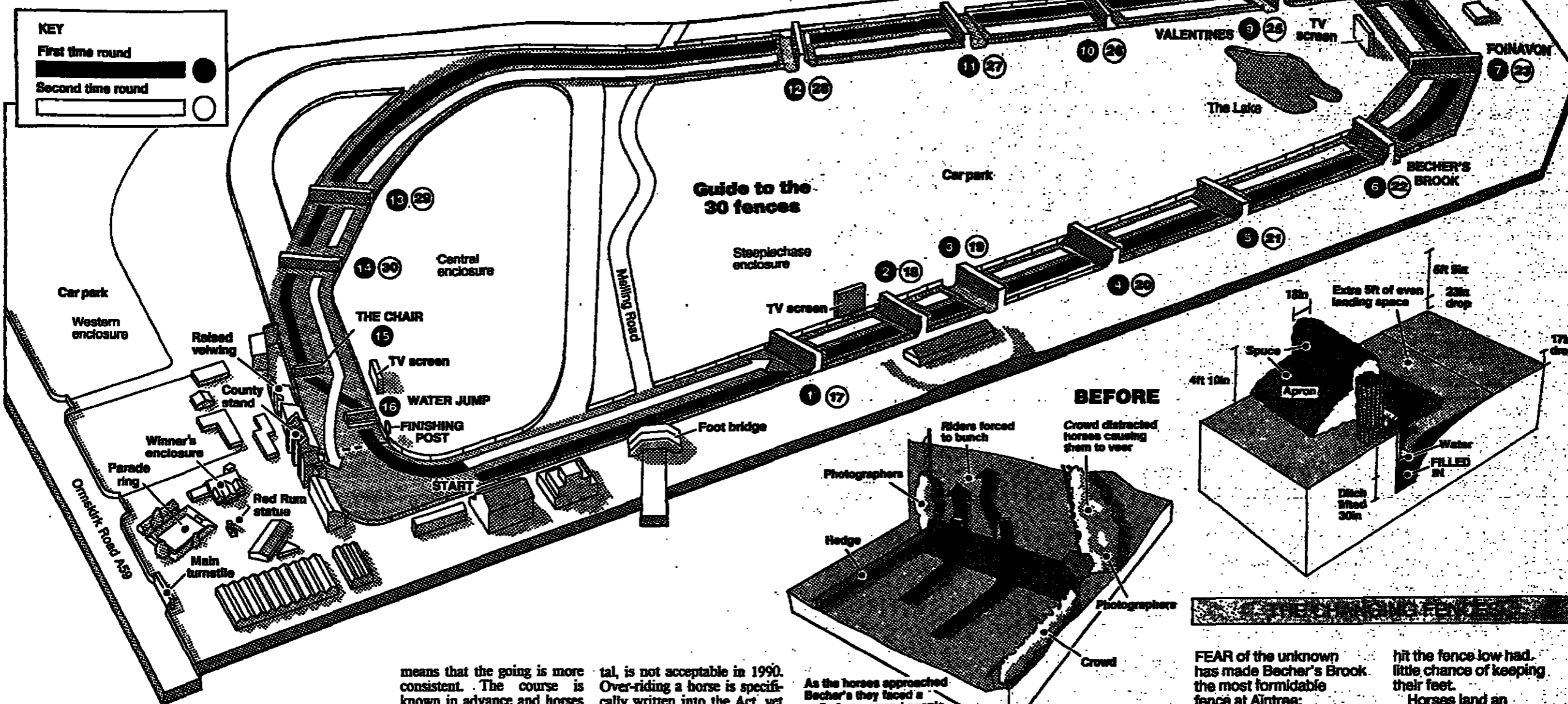
Farrell trains for third win in Chilterns

STEPHEN Farrell, winner of last year's Overtoom Grand Prix, tomorrow tries for a third victory in the event which opens Britain's international calendar (Peter Bryan writes).

The Overton is one of 10 races organized by the Star. It is the first competition in which Farrell holds the lead.

The Times sets the scene for the Grand National at Aintree today

Danger adds a seductive zest to action

Brown W
poised to
frustrating
of Hendo

Hazardous sports can be the most exciting for spectators and participants alike; the very element of danger adds a seductive zest to the action, but the perfect balance between recreation and risk remains elusive.

The issue is complicated enough when humans alone gamble with their lives, but when other, less articulate, species are asked to share the danger without having the right to decline, the debate becomes particularly intense.

At one extreme, the hunt, shoot, fish, is not seen as insensitive if not callous; at the other end, the animal rights activists can appear to exploit animals for political gain.

The controversy over the Grand National is not new, although in 1911, when an Act of Parliament was passed to protect animals from cruelty, the suggestion that steeplechasing might be barbarous would have been considered absurdly eccentric.

The Grand National fences are formidable, and significant alterations were effected 30 years ago in response to public opinion. However, the death of the good-looking grey, Dark Ivy, at Becher's Brook in 1987 and two more horses at the same fence last year provoked a public outcry which the authorities could not ignore.

Over the past 20 years, 13 horses have died in the Grand National, six of them at Becher's Brook, and, after the 1989 race, the Jockey Club and Aintree management met to discuss improvements to the fence. As a result, changes to the immediate environment of Becher's should reduce the number of horses who fall and help eliminate fatalities.

John Parrett, manager and clerk of the course at Aintree, believes the alterations will be successful. "The Grand National is an athletic contest which should produce the best horses on the day, and failure should not be punished by fatality."

"In any competition, there's an element of danger, but the conditions and the environment should be as safe as they can be made. The challenge of Becher's remains the same, but the horse who falls should come to less harm."

Parrett is an accomplished horseman who accepts that some will continue to view the risks as unacceptable. "It's very difficult to know where to draw the line; obviously, public opinion plays an important role."

means that the going is more consistent. The course is known in advance and horses can be properly prepared for it."

In addition to changes at Becher's and other fences, the authorities have insisted regulations under which only riders of proven experience and horses of significant ability are permitted to take part. The combined effect of the changes should enhance the long-term reputation of the race.

A television audience of 12 million in Britain and 400 million worldwide will watch the Grand National and among them will be John Bryant, wildlife officer for the League Against Cruel Sports.

Recently, he was quoted as saying that it was an appalling indictment of the human race that it treated animals, particularly sensitive animals like horses, as pieces of sporting equipment, which could be destroyed and replaced.

This is the very stuff to spread apoplexy in the shires, but Bryant is an articulate advocate of his cause, and he believes that the time is right to bring a prosecution under the 1911 Act for unnecessary cruelty. "All the time, the Act allows the public to re-assess what is unnecessary cruelty. Technically, it is illegal under the Act to beat a horse and in the Grand National animals are put at risk for entertainment."

"People object to making a game out of animals, and suffering, even if it is accidental, is not acceptable in 1990. Over-riding a horse is specifically written into the Act, yet horses are driven to pull out the last of their reserves. It's appalling that a fellow species is regarded as expendable."

While Bryant is viewing the race from his armchair, Bernard Donigan will be standing at Becher's Brook in his capacity as the North-West regional superintendent of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Donigan, aged 64, will carry out his official duties for the last time, but he hopes to attend as many future Grand Nationals as nature allows. "We've been making representations for some time" and there has been an undeniable groundswell of public opinion, but I must say that I'm impressed by what has been done," he said.

Donigan was a horseman in the Army and his 35 years with the RSPCA has attended 22 Grand National meetings. He is a great supporter of racing. "I would never agree to horses being abused. Racing people benefit from horses. They grow up with them, work with them, spend their whole lives with them."

The empirical evidence suggests that horses derive some enjoyment from racing. On the flat, most horses who lose a jockey during a race finish the contest. In steeplechases, including the Grand National, many finishers scramble to their feet and follow the field over the fences, slowing to a trot when they tire.

As the horses approached Becher's they faced a wall of spruce and people.

Before the race, the horses were forced to bunch. Photographers and a crowd of spectators were positioned on the outside of the fence.

After the race, the horses were allowed to spread out. Photographers and a crowd of spectators were positioned on the inside of the fence.

The new layout allows riders to jump straight and run wide to line up for the next fence.

New plastic rail and new 4ft 6in chain link fence.

New hedge and new 4ft 6in chain link fence.

Today, it will be a useful statistic for the extremists; to some, it will mean nothing more than another losing betting slip. But to most of the crowd, it will be as deeply felt as the loss of a friend.

Graham Rock

FEAR of the unknown has made Becher's Brook the most formidable fence at Aintree; approaching the obstacle, all a horse can see over the fence is a waiting wall of spectators, and he is unaware of the size of the drop on the landing side.

In deciding what changes to make in order to improve the world's best-known steeplechase fence, the Aintree management sought not to make the obstacle any less difficult — the height, spread and drop remain the same — but it has made alterations to the course to give horses a fairer chance of jumping the fence cleanly.

Because of a left turn immediately after Becher's, jockeys can save ground by jumping the left of the fence, towards the inside rail. The drop, the fall in ground from the level at which the fence is jumped on to 23 inches against the rail to 17 inches at the outside.

Spectators will no longer be allowed to stand next to the rail on the approach to the fence and, by moving the outside rail back from the course, the crowd will no longer seem to be positioned immediately over the fence. Formerly, horses were concentrating on the crowd, and those who

hit the fence low had little chance of keeping their feet.

Horses land an average of 9ft 5in past the fence; in the past, those who did not jump it cleanly touched down nearer, and a few who fell rolled down a slope into the ditch, whose escape was difficult and, from some positions, impossible.

The ditch has now been filled in and a token 2in of water will cover the new base when the field pounds over Becher's this afternoon. Similar alterations were effected at Valentine's Brook and the 12th fence.

The changes around Becher's will encourage more horses to jump straight. Previously, they had tended to skew to the left in mid-air, bringing inevitable collisions. John Parrett, Aintree's manager and clerk of the course, is hopeful that jockeys will now use the whole of the fence rather than just the left-hand side.

"Becher's should be a challenge, but now a horse who falls to jump it successfully should come to less harm. Last year, Rhyme 'N' Reason and Halo Dandy all won the National jumping Becher's on the outside, and I hope jockeys will take advantage of the new option offered."

A to Z analysis of the big-race runners

Previous Grand National form in brackets, most recent on right

AGAINST THE GRAIN (---) Broke a losing sequence stretching over almost three years when successful at Wolverhampton in February. Thorough stayer trained for the race. David Nicholson's second season.

BARTRES (---) Well behind when pulled up last year. Outsider then and among the longshots again this year.

BIGSUN (---) Won the Ritz Club Chase at Cheltenham (a good National guide) in course record time on his last start. Sured by fast ground, a sound jumper and stays well. Preferred by Richard Dunwoody (successful on West Tip in 1986) to the stable's other runner, Against The Grain. Has a first-class chance.

BOB TISDALL (---) Bold jumper in good form early this season, but out of sorts recently. Well beaten at Cheltenham last time. Refused early on in last year's National.

BONANZA BOY (---) High-class stayer who gained second consecutive Welsh National success in December. Never dangerous in last month's Cheltenham Gold Cup. Eighth here a year ago and trained for the race since. Represents the formidable team of Martin Pipe and Peter Scudamore, riding in his tenth consecutive National.

BROWN WINDSOR (---) Trained by Nicky Henderson, who has provided second, third and fifth in the last five Nationals. Proven stayer suited by fast ground. Mount of John White, who has completed at five of his six National rides, including a second on The Tarsarvic three years ago. Sound jumper with knack of looking after himself. Worthy favourite.

CALL COLLECT (---) Top-class hunter chaser successful over the National fences in the Fox Hunters last year. Won the equivalent race at the Cheltenham festival last month. Connections will not hear of defeat, but lack of handicap

experience is against him. Not certain to be as well suited by fast ground as some of his rivals.

CHARTER HARDWARE (---) Began by 45-year-old Irish amateur Raymond Martin. Dogged stayer lacking in pace. Better suited by soft ground. Long shot to change John Edwards's fortunes in what has been an unkind race for him.

CONCLUSIVE (---) Gordon Richards's second-string to Riasus. Has ability but is prone to mistakes; a luxury he cannot afford here. Jockey Steve Smith. Elected was third four years ago on Classified.

COURSE HUNTER (---) Made a remarkable recovery to finish eighth after almost falling at Becher's second time round two years ago. Injured earlier this season and trainer David Murray Smith fears the race may have come just too soon.

DURHAM EDITION (---) Has looked the winner of the last two Nationals only to falter in the closing stages. Caught close home by Rhyme 'N' Reason two years ago, and tired on soft ground a year ago after going well nursing for home. Suited by fast going. Likely to make a bold attempt to give Arthur Stephenson, 70 today, a memorable birthday present.

GAINSAID (---) Fell nineteenth last year when in touch. Ran over hurdles last week, an unorthodox preparation. Probably best of Jenny Pitman's team as she attempts to add a second National to Corbiere's 1983 win. Owned by Errol Brown, of pop group Hot Chocolate.

GALA'S IMAGE (---) Represents first-season trainer John McConnochie. Quietly fancied last year (trained by Mercy Russell) but mostly disappointing this season.

GALLIC PRINCE (---) Bold challenge by champion Spanish amateur rider Jose Soria, carrying the colours of Iberian Airlines. Outsider.

GEE-A (---) Ran well for a long way two years ago but the glorious days of Cheltenham and Liverpool wins seem to be behind him.

GHOFAH (---) David Elsworth and Brendan Powell, successful two years ago with

Rhyme 'N' Reason, combine again. Won the competitive Hennessy Gold Cup in November. Well handicapped but lacks Rhyme 'N' Reason's class.

HUNGARY HUR (---) Irish-trained outsider who would prefer softer ground. First National runner for John Mulhern. Mount of Tommy Carmody, second in 1984 on Greenpasture. Prone to mistakes.

LAST OF THE BROWNIES (---) The best of the Irish challengers. Fell three out when holding every chance two years ago, and plugged on into fourth last season. One of the better bets to get round.

MICK'S STAR (---) Lightly raced but remains ability. Fell only start this season. Would be a marvellous training feat by Jenny Pitman if he won.

MONANORE (0-3-16) Aintree stalwart contesting fifth National (also eighth in 1986). Safe jumper but not getting any faster. Fit stayer, on board two years ago, broke over from the injured Gee Armytage.

MR FRISK (---) Flamboyant jumper who loves fast ground. Thrilling ride in prospect for amateur Marcus Armytage.

NATURAL JOKE (---) Outsider. Arthur Stephenson, on board three entries. Jockey Brian Storer, no stranger to surprise results, rode a 100-1 winner on the first day of the meeting.

POLYFEMUS (---) First National runner for Michael Robinson. Jockey Richard Rowe, three times a first-fleur departure, would welcome a change of luck. Improving but still relatively inexperienced. Each-way prospect.

RUMKA MAJOR (---) Once useful but now thoroughly predictable. Has developed an aversion to starting.

RINUS (---) Likely to make a bold effort to give Gordon Richards a third National following Lucius (1978) and Halo Dandy (1984). Can cope with any going, but best suited to soft. Mount of Neale Doughty, who has completed on all his six National starts, including Halo Dandy.

ROLL-A-JOINT (---) Has failed to recapture the sparkle of last season's seven wins, including the Scottish National. Thorough stayer whose prospects would improve if the ground became soft.

SACRED PATH (---) Fell at the first when favourite two years ago. Has been injured and is lightly raced since.

SIR JEST (---) Has had two unhappy experiences here and has shown signs of temperament this season. Not the ideal combination.

SOLARES (---) Recently changed stables for 18,000gns but permit holder Les Lye will do well to recoup any of that.

STAR'S DELIGHT (---) Supporting act to trainer's first choice, Bonanza Boy. Does most of his racing between two and 2½ miles, so faces a hefty step up in class. No grey has won since Nicolaus Silver in 1961.

TEAM CHALLENGE (---) Represents the Jenny Pitman-Ben de Haan combination successful in 1983 with Corbiere. Ran well until weekending the closing stages last year. Lively long shot.

THINKING CAP (---) Bought on Thursday by Mark O'Connor, a former international rugby player. Shores with Why So Fast in the closing stages of being the worst handicapped horse in the race. Rank outsider.

TORSIDE (---) Soft ground stayer unlikely to find conditions in his favour. Ridden by Jimmy Ffrench, successful last year on Little Polaris.

UNCLE MERLIN (---) High-class American chaser, winner of the 1989 Maryland Hunt Cup. From a stable previously successful with Well To Do (1972), Ben Nevis (1980) and Last Suspect (1985). Jumped well and is quietly fancied by his normally pessimistic trainer. Ridden by Last Suspect's jockey, Hywel Davies.

WEST TIP (4-4-2) Archetypal National horse. Fell at Becher's second time round when going well in 1985, won in 1986, and always in the firing line since. Time has blunted his speed but his jumping remains as sound as ever. Ridden for the first time at the National by Peter Hobbs. Solid each-way value.

WHY SO HASTY (---) Bought last week at Doncaster Sales for 4,200gns. Once useful but has had leg problems.

YOUNG DRIVER (---) Would be a fairytale winner. Second in 1986, then runner-up to Obacurity. Little recent form. Only one 13-year-old has won this century.

VERDICT 1. BIGSUN; 2. Brown Windsor; 3. Bonanza Boy; 4. West Tip.

George Rae

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The Times sets the scene for the Grand National today

Brown Windsor poised to end frustrating run of Henderson

By Manda

BROWN WINDSOR has the necessary qualities to end trainer Nicky Henderson's run of Grand National near-misses at Aintree this afternoon.

Henderson has saddled two seconds and a third, a record which has sharpened his appetite to land a race in which, as he admits, only winning counts. In Brown Windsor, he has a formidable representative.

The eight-year-old came to prominence when winning the highly-competitive Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown Park last season when, as a novice, he put more experienced handicappers in their place with a stirring triumph over Sam De Vinci.

He has since consolidated his reputation with a series of consistent and versatile performances this season, including a win in the 2½-mile Cathcart Chase at Cheltenham last month and a good neck second to Ghofar in the Hennessy Gold Cup over an extended 3½ miles.

His jumping is also safe and economical enough to suggest that he will survive the course. The National is always likely to spring the unexpected, but Brown Windsor has never even looked like falling over fences, and he has the happy knack of being able to take care of himself.

John White, his rider, has plenty of experience of the National's unique demands. He finished second on The Tarevich, also trained by Henderson, three years ago, and has only once failed to complete in six attempts.

But it is the prevailing fast ground which underlines Brown Windsor's claims. He simply loves to hear his hooves rattle, which does not apply to several of his closest rivals.

Bonanza Boy, twice successful in the Welsh National, stands for class and comes to the race after a much lighter preparation than a year ago, when he finished eighth to Little Polveir.

Mr Pipe, has made no secret of his confidence in Bonanza Boy's prospects, but he is a better horse on soft ground. I cannot share Pipe's enthusiasm while the going remains firm.

Call Collect is from the hunting fraternity, repre-

sented successfully by Gritter in 1982. He won the Foxhunters' over the National fences last year, and added the Cheltenham equivalent last month. His connections consider him handicapped to win, but his lack of experience in the hurry-burry of handicaps may work against him.

Indeed, he too may not be entirely home on the fast ground. Earlier in the week, John Parkes, his trainer, was threatening to withdraw him if he felt the ground has become too firm.

With the overnight withdrawal of The Thinker, Arthur Stephenson, 70 today, will be relying primarily on Durham Edition for a memorable birthday present. The 12-year-old has led at the last in each of the last two Nationals only to be worn down in the closing stages.

Heavy ground stretched his stamina beyond its limit last year, and his prospects of getting home are brighter this time. However, I am not convinced that he sees, out the trip, whatever the going.

The ground will not worry Bigsun. He shattered the course record when winning the Ritz Club Handicap at Cheltenham last month and looks to have come just right for the big day. He jumps soundly, stays well and has Richard Dunwoody, successful on West Tip in 1986, to help him. He is preferred to David Nicholson's other runner, Against The Grain.

Gordon Richards, twice previously successful with Lucius and Halo Dandy, saddles Conclusive and Rims, but it is Rims who looks the better equipped to give Richards a notable treble.

The four-strong Irish challenge is headed by Lastofthebrowns, fourth last year. Despite his fall here two years ago, he is a generally safe jumper but may not have the pace to threaten the principals.

Polyfemus, once trained by Henderson, and Ghofar, representing the David Elsworth-Brendan Powell combination triumphant two years ago with Rhyme 'N' Reason, are both lively each-way possibilities.

However, the more the ground dries out, the more my confidence increases in Brown Windsor.

3.20 SEAGRAM GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (Listed Race: £70,870: 4m 4f) (40 runners)

301 40P-110 BONANZA BOY 23 (F,G,S) (S Dunster) M Pipe 9-11-9	P Scudamore 99
302 PU-652P HUNGARY HUR 48 (G,S) (Miss D Throldwell) J Mulhern (ire) 11-11-2	T Cammody 69
303 14-3623 WEST TIP 23 (C,F,G,S) (P Luff) M Oliver 13-10-11	Peter Nobbs 91
304 1-12321 BROWN WINDSOR 23 (F,G,S) (W Shand Kydd) N Henderson 8-10-10	J White 92
305 58-1421 DURHAM EDITION 102 (F,G,S) (R Odey) W A Stephenson 12-10-9	C Grant 88
306 412354 MR FRISK 25 (F,G,S) (Mrs H Duffey) K Bailey 11-10-6	Mr M Armytage 93
307 RP-44P BOB TIDALL 23 (G,S) (R Odey) N Gaselee 11-10-6	K Mooney 92
308 11-2111 CALL COLLECT 23 (C,F,S) (J Clements) J Parkes 9-10-5	Mr R Martin 91
309 2-11R6P PUKKA MAJOR 45 (F,G,S) (Mrs S Thomson Jones) T Thomson Jones 9-10-4	M Richards 92
310 652P-6 GAINSBY 7 (G,C,G,S) (E Brown) Mrs J Pitman 11-10-3	M Pitman 91
311 3F-11P5 JOINT SOVEREIGNTY 58 (F,G,S) (W Brind) P Hobbs 10-10-1	L Wyer 90
312 1-11FF1 SIR JEST 32 (F,G,S) (P Fifer) W A Stephenson 12-10-10	B Storey 91
313 PFP-45P MONMORE 31 (S) (Fut Crade F P) N Thirler 13-10-9	T Tait 91
314 111114 STAR'S DELIGHT 84 (F,G,S) (F Barr) M Pipe 8-10-0	J Lower 93
315 8/13-F MICK'S STAR 15 (G,S) (P Scamman) Mrs J Pitman 10-10-0	S J O'Neill 83
316 42543P LASTOFTHEBROWNS 42 (G,S) (The A Day) M Morris (ire) 10-10-0	C Swan 89
317 4P-5P SACRED PATH 32 (G,S) (Mrs C Heath) O Sherwood 10-10-0	J Osborne 80
318 25P-531 RINUS 35 (C,F,G,S) (A Pross) G Richards 9-10-0	N Doughty 92
319 5-24131 BIGSUN 23 (F,G) (J Horn) D Nicholson 9-10-0	R Dunwoody 95
320 2144US GHOFAR 33 (F,G,S) (D Telford) D Elsworth 7-10-0	B Powell 82
321 20-30P0 GALA'S IMAGE 84 (F,G,S) (B Thackeray) J McCormack 10-10-0	J Shortt 82
322 2-13212 TORSIDE 11 (B,F,F,G,S) (G Bigsoun) M Pipe 11-10-0	J Frost 90

Comprehensive form guide to the 40 National contenders

BONANZA BOY: Mar 15, Cheltenham, good to firm (10-0) 43 2nd (11-1) 4th (12-0) 2nd (13-0) 2nd (14-0) 2nd (15-0) 2nd (16-0) 2nd (17-0) 2nd (18-0) 2nd (19-0) 2nd (20-0) 2nd (21-0) 2nd (22-0) 2nd (23-0) 2nd (24-0) 2nd (25-0) 2nd (26-0) 2nd (27-0) 2nd (28-0) 2nd (29-0) 2nd (30-0) 2nd (31-0) 2nd (32-0) 2nd (33-0) 2nd (34-0) 2nd (35-0) 2nd (36-0) 2nd (37-0) 2nd (38-0) 2nd (39-0) 2nd (40-0) 2nd (41-0) 2nd (42-0) 2nd (43-0) 2nd (44-0) 2nd (45-0) 2nd (46-0) 2nd (47-0) 2nd (48-0) 2nd (49-0) 2nd (50-0) 2nd (51-0) 2nd (52-0) 2nd (53-0) 2nd (54-0) 2nd (55-0) 2nd (56-0) 2nd (57-0) 2nd (58-0) 2nd (59-0) 2nd (60-0) 2nd (61-0) 2nd (62-0) 2nd (63-0) 2nd (64-0) 2nd (65-0) 2nd (66-0) 2nd (67-0) 2nd (68-0) 2nd (69-0) 2nd (70-0) 2nd (71-0) 2nd (72-0) 2nd (73-0) 2nd (74-0) 2nd (75-0) 2nd (76-0) 2nd (77-0) 2nd (78-0) 2nd (79-0) 2nd (80-0) 2nd (81-0) 2nd (82-0) 2nd (83-0) 2nd (84-0) 2nd (85-0) 2nd (86-0) 2nd (87-0) 2nd (88-0) 2nd (89-0) 2nd (90-0) 2nd (91-0) 2nd (92-0) 2nd (93-0) 2nd (94-0) 2nd (95-0) 2nd 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A batting executioner with a swagger

In November, 1988, Viv Richards became only the 22nd player and the first West Indian to complete a hundred first-class centuries. David Foot, who has seen a great many of those hundreds, gives his assessment of a remarkable batsman.

There were times when peaks in Viv Richards' career seemed almost predestined. He told David Graveney in bar-room pleasantries one evening that he would be making two hundred against Gloucestershire — and that was what he did next day. In the September of 1979, when Somerset acquired their first title after 104 years of feckless history and eternal optimism, those of us from down in the West Country knew Richards would excel. He gripped his bat tighter than usual, staying from the seventh till the last over to score 117 in the final of the Gillette Cup.

When it came to the first official Test in his native St. John's in Antigua (against England in 1980-81) virtually every West Indian viewed a hundred from him as formality. Their evaluation, unfair to the player, was based on sentimental terms. He knew that his innings had to be a symbol of what his small island had achieved. It was an onerous responsibility for a proud Antiguan; he began with a flurry of uncharacteristically nervous fours, and then simply willed himself to stay there. He was consumed with what was expected of him. And he was grafted to 114. It wasn't one of his best, but around the boundary there were unashamed tears in a black nation's eyes. Five years later, those tears were replaced by joyful laughter and thunderous noise as Viv treated his fellow Antiguan by devastating the England bowlers, scoring the fastest hundred in Test cricket in terms of balls received: just 56. It was among the most wonderful innings ever played.

At Sydney, in November 1988 against New South Wales, Richards became the first West Indian to complete 100 first-class hundreds. In his previous innings — the first of the tour — he had fashioned his 99th, against South Australia. Clearly the procrastinations had gone on long enough. That particular landmark was overdue. In any case, he hated all the talk about records.

His inclusion, as No. 22 on the illustrious list, was always a matter of inevitability. Judged by his own expensive, often sublime, at times savage standards, the surprise was that the milestone took him so long. It was still achieved out of only 688 innings. Yet if the mind, the mood, the fitness and the circumstances had combined when he was 17, his statistics would have carried a greater dramatic eloquence. As it was, only Bradman (295), Compton (552), Hutton (619) and Boycott (645) had got there in fewer innings. Of that contrasting quartet, he would be most flattered to be compared with Compton, because of his impish disregard for reputation and his innate sense of adventure. There was a time, early in his career, when Richards was being dubbed "the black Bradman". It was an absurd analogy: their styles and attitudes were so dissimilar. Almost certainly the great Don kept a furtive eye on the scoreboard a great deal more than does Richards. I V A could actually look flustered, and that was an integral part of his charm and his genius.

His departure from Somerset and subsequent loss to county cricket probably robbed him of another 18 hundreds. Injuries and ill health over recent years have also restricted him. There are suggestions that the marvellous eyesight and the almost magical reflexes are at last on the decline, though no doubt he would contest such notions. Nearly half his hundred hundreds were for Somerset, the county he loves more. When he arrived in 1974, they seemed made for each other. He liked the gentle pace of market-

town Taunton, the chummy rustic boundary banter, the apple-juice buzz of expectancy as overdrive success loomed. It was Richards and Botham growing up together, playing for two counties, doing wondrous deeds. Somerset had always liked batsmen who got on with it — from Sammy Woods to Wellard, Guy Earle to the tragic Harold Gimblett. Richards didn't just do that; he was the best in the world.

His first centuries were at Bristol and Bath, where this writer recalls the boyish excitement, tempered by disbelief, when word reached him that he was in the West Indian tour party for India. There was, too, the joy of seeing, at a rough count, 30 of his hundreds. They varied in quality, never in excitement. He did it without a helmet. The cap was straight and yet distinctive, in the way that caught Colin Cowdrey's eye when he first saw Richards, lean and cheerful, swinging a Caribbean bat that looked almost too heavy for him. In this country, the body filled out; the muscles flexed and the runs flowed. The aficionados nudged each other to admire the sheer stillness of the man as he stood at the crease waiting for the bowler, then the instinctive way he got into position so quickly to play his shot. Somehow he was conjuring up half-volleys when they did not exist. He was hitting beautifully through the covers. And, most beguilingly of all, he was hitting across the front foot. He was defying generations of coaches as he clipped the off-stump ball through mid-wicket.

Richards has changed rather more as a man than as a player. He may not be able to pick up the direction and guile of the hurrying ball quite so quickly, but the inclination to dominate the duel with the bowler will never lessen. He makes good balls look like ordinary ones because his timing and footwork have always been so immaculate.

Of his hundred centuries, 44 were scored for West Indies, exactly half of them in Test matches. No more than eight came from his appearances for Leeward Islands or Combined Islands. One of those was against Jamaica at St Kitts. Could there have been a few spectators present that day who had made the journey, a decade earlier, to see him play for Antigua against St Kitts? It was his first zone match and, for him, an infamous one. He refused to walk when given out. There were demonstrations and a two-hour delay. But then Richards has never been completely free of controversy. There have been racial taunts from Yorkshire crowds; angry words with opponents and umpires; the delay over his appointment as captain of West Indies; the acrimonious goodbyes at Taunton. The memory is long, the fuse can be short. The walk to and from the wicket carries a swagger that is seen, perhaps misinterpreted, as arrogance. That unrelenting cricketing diary all round the year has left him at times both weary and cynical.

Captaincy has not always gone easily for him. There must be difficulties on occasions in welding a common purpose from talented players of disparate temperaments and varying island homelands. Inter-island rivalries do exist: political implications can be inhibiting. But he has one undeniable bonus. All West Indian cricketers respect his bountiful gifts. He can also be, when cross of the stresses and strains, a charming and modest companion. He remains steadfastly loyal to his long-standing friends, going back to Rising Sun



Young pretender: Richards chose the West Country derby game against Gloucestershire at Bristol in 1974 as the occasion for his first century

HOW RICHARDS HAS BECOME THE MOST PROLIFIC BATSMAN IN WEST INDIAN CRICKET HISTORY

102 Somerset v Gloucestershire at Bristol	1974	108 Somerset v Leicestershire at Leicester	1979	178 West Indies v Australia at St John's, Antigua	1983-84
107 Somerset v Yorkshire at Bath	1974	109 Somerset v Lancashire at Taunton	1979	179 West Indies v Glamorgan at Swansea	1984
102 West Indies v West Zone at Pune	1974-75	110 Somerset v Yorkshire at Harrogate	1979	177 West Indies v England at Birmingham	1984
103 West Indies v North Zone at Jullundur	1974-75	111 Somerset v Gloucestershire at Taunton	1979	102 West Indies v South Australia at Adelaide	1984-85
182 West Indies v India at Delhi	1974-75	112 Somerset v Gloucestershire at Taunton	1979	208 West Indies v Australia at Melbourne	1984-85
151 West Indies v Sri Lanka at Colombo	1974-75	113 West Indies v MCC at Lord's	1980	105 West Indies v New Zealand at Bridgetown	1984-85
112 Combined Islands v Guyana at St George's, Grenada	1974-75	106 Somerset v Nottinghamshire at Nottingham	1980	186 Somerset v Hampshire at Taunton	1985
101 Combined Islands v Jamaica at St John's, Antigua	1974-75	107 Somerset v Yorkshire at Harrogate	1980	105 Somerset v Yorkshire at Leeds	1985
217 Somerset v Yorkshire at Harrogate	1975	170 Somerset v Gloucestershire at Bristol	1980	322 Somerset v Warwickshire at Taunton	1985
128 Somerset v Gloucestershire at Taunton	1975	120 West Indies v Pakistan at Multan	1980-81	100 Somerset v Glamorgan at Cardiff	1985
132 Somerset v Kent at Folkestone	1975	168 Combined Islands v Trinidad & Tobago at Port of Spain	1980-81	135 Somerset v Middlesex at Cardiff	1985
175 West Indies v Western Australia at Perth	1975-76	106 Combined Islands v Jamaica at Basseterre, St Kitts	1980-81	120 Somerset v Hampshire at Manchester	1985
180 West Indies v Tasmania at Hobart	1975-76	182 West Indies v England at Bridgetown	1980-81	123 Somerset v Derbyshire at Derby	1985
107 West Indies v Tasmania at Hobart	1975-76	114 West Indies v England at St John's, Antigua	1980-81	112 Somerset v Sussex at Taunton	1985
191 West Indies v Australia at Adelaide	1975-76	106 Somerset v Nottinghamshire at Nottingham	1980-81	125 Somerset v Worcestershire at Taunton	1985
142 West Indies v India at Bridgetown	1975-76	118 Somerset v Worcestershire at Worcester	1981	132 Leeward Islands v Trinidad & Tobago, St Kitts	1985-86
130 West Indies v India at Port of Spain	1975-76	198 Somerset v Leicestershire at Leicester	1981	110 West Indies v England at St John's, Antigua	1985-86
175 West Indies v Hampshire at Southampton	1975-76	130 Somerset v Derbyshire at Taunton	1981	102 Somerset v Glamorgan at Taunton	1986
143 West Indies v MCC at Lord's	1976	153 Somerset v Yorkshire at Sheffield	1981	136 Somerset v Glamorgan at Cardiff	1986
232 West Indies v England at Nottingham	1976	150 Somerset v Worcestershire at Weston-super-Mare	1981	128 Somerset v Kent at Bath	1986
135 West Indies v England at Manchester	1976	128 Somerset v Essex at Taunton	1981	115 Somerset v Warwickshire at Weston-super-Mare	1986
121 West Indies v Glamorgan at Swansea	1976	121 West Indies v Queensland at Brisbane	1981	117 West Indies v Sri Lanka at Napier	1986-87
143 Queensland v Pakistan at Brisbane	1976-77	167 Leeward Islands v Trinidad & Tobago, Antigua	1981-82	138 West Indies v India Under-25 XI at Chandigarh	1987-88
124 Combined Islands v Barbados at Bridgetown	1976-77	146 Somerset v Kent at Taunton	1982	109 West Indies v India at Delhi	1987-88
118 Somerset v Warwickshire at Taunton	1977	135 Somerset v Warwickshire at Birmingham	1982	119 Leeward Islands v Guyana at St John's, Antigua	1987-88
211 Somerset v Gloucestershire at Bristol	1977	181 Somerset v Pakistan at Taunton	1982	123 West Indies v Pakistan at Port of Spain	1987-88
104 Somerset v Leicestershire at Leicester	1977	178 Somerset v Lancashire at Taunton	1982	128 West Indies v Sussex at Hove	1988
204 Somerset v Sussex at Hove	1977	109 West Indies v India at Georgetown	1982-83	136 West Indies v South Australia at Adelaide	1988-89
101 Somerset v Warwickshire at Birmingham	1977	216 Somerset v Leicestershire at Leicester	1983	101 West Indies v New South Wales at Sydney	1988-89
189 Somerset v Lancashire at Southampton	1977	142 Somerset v Surrey at Taunton	1983		
204 Somerset v Surrey at Weston-super-Mare	1977	128 Somerset v Northamptonshire at Northampton	1983		
118 Somerset v Sussex at Hove	1978	128 Somerset v Northamptonshire at Weston-super-Mare	1983		
110 Somerset v Gloucestershire at Taunton	1978	103 Somerset v Kent at Taunton	1983		
116 Somerset v Yorkshire at Harrogate	1979	109 West Indies v South Zone at Hyderabad	1983-84		
		120 West Indies v India at Bombay	1983-84		

Of Richards' 100 hundreds, 60 were scored in England (47 for Somerset), 18 in the West Indies, 12 in Australia, 7 in India, 1 in New Zealand, 1 in Pakistan and 1 in Sri Lanka.

*signifies not out

CC days at St John's or steel-band days when he tried to snatch some sleep at Bath while qualifying for Somerset.

Richards is self-critical and becomes anxious when his bad runs appear. Especially in his early years, he was apt to grow dejected. This was true of his opening tour, to India. Chandrasekhar got him cheaply twice, giving simple catches to extra cover and gully, in his debut Test. Back in the dressing room he slumped on the bench, convinced that his elevation from Rising Sun to Lansdown to Somerset to West Indies had been altogether too rapid, if not unrealistic. He needed an urgent pep talk from Clive Lloyd and Roy Fredericks to restore some semblance of confidence. It must have worked. He went out and in five hours made 192 not out in the

second Test, at Delhi. Soon he was taking hundreds off the Australians at Adelaide and the Indians in the first three Tests of the 1975-76 home series. Team morale had been suspect in Australia, and the matches with the Indians were not strong in cordiality. But Richards looked forward to the tour to England in 1976. The sun shone every day, and he took double-hundreds off England's bowlers at Trent Bridge and The Oval.

Despite the frenetic car journeys from one match to the next — Brian Close had been his driver and mentor in the first few years for Somerset — Richards liked the ambience of county cricket. He looked tired some mornings, but he slept deeply in a corner of the dressing room between innings and wickets. He never needed to acclimatize to the light or "psy-

che" himself for the task ahead on a turning wicket. He had beautiful co-ordination of movement and what he used to say was God-given eyesight.

While with Somerset he scored double-centuries against Yorkshire, Gloucestershire, Sussex, Surrey and Leicestershire. He punished with a geographically free-ranging democratic sense. At Taunton in 1985, Warwickshire's bowlers were made to look embarrassingly inadequate as he hit them for 322. It was a murderous innings, unique for the risible and effortless way he kept amassing fours and sixes. Yet it was never remotely a slog as you know it. The Somerset players lined up to applaud him in. One Warwickshire player told this writer: "I'm going to give up cricket. I realize, seeing Viv this

afternoon, that I should never have been a professional."

The first Test between Australia and West Indies, at Brisbane in November 1988, was Richards' 100th for his country. He garnished the occasion by becoming the tenth fielder only, other than a wicketkeeper, to take 100 Test catches. So how much longer: how many more hundreds, how many more centuries? Or, indeed, as he demands to be viewed seriously as an all-rounder, how many more wickets? He has sampled Rishton *bonhomie* and the quaintly taxing challenges of league cricket; and many feel that, with health and appetite restored, he would like a few profitable years back on the county circuit. Glamorgan hoped in vain that he would be with them for at least two or three matches last season.

The centuries list is peopled by many of the great names in cricket, chronologically starting with Grace and ending with Richards. It contains, arguably, better technicians, wiser purists and several infinitely duller accumulators of runs than I V A. Virtually uncoached and yet fearfully artistic, he must surely have the time, bravura and, one assumes, the sustained inclination to overtake Bradman (117) by scoring more hundreds than any other overseas player. That would be an appropriate valedictory flourish.

David Foot's essay on Viv Richards is from *Wisden Cricketers Almanack 1990*, edited by Gwynne Wright, published by John Wisden and Co (£18.50 cased, £13.50 soft cover) next week.

The marathon man keeps on running

By Michael Coleman

NOT everyone wishes a marathon were longer. But that was the feeling Anthony Williamson had when approaching Westminster Bridge in the London race two years ago. "I wanted to push the finish line further away because I didn't want it to end. I was on such a high that day," he said.

This was surprising for a man of 47, married, with four children, and running his first marathon and who, until his acceptance, had done little sport since age 12. He was a solicitor, of Andover, West Sussex, and one of the Times/Unisys London Marathon Appeal runners in the ADT London Marathon on April 22, became smashed with the sport because he was an agent for Nationwide America, the sponsor of the London Marathon entry forms. "I entered just as a gaggle and was surprisingly accepted. Of course, there was talk of a fiddle but it wasn't so," he said. "I had to get in some training so I downed painkillers and running gear and went straight out the gate. Six weeks later, a physiotherapist told me: 'Give it up. I couldn't even walk, my legs were so far from running on the roads.' He persevered, however,

switching to the grass verges along the sea front at Lancing, and going up into the hills and through the woods. His time in London in 1988 was 4hr 42min, and that included walking. Bitten by the running bug, his horizon widened.

"The following October, we went to Venice — it's a city my wife and I love — and again I did 4:42. London rejected my entry in 1989 so we went to Paris the week after — it was the bicentennial of the storming of the Bastille — for another 4:42. "That was followed by Berlin on October 1, where, whoopee, I did 4:02! What an atmosphere Berlin has. West or East? At Checkpoint Charlie, the border police kept us waiting an hour when our bus went through sightseeing. Six weeks later, the Wall was down." By the time that happened,

marathon man Williamson was in New York intent on cracking four hours. He was out of luck. "They kept us hanging about in the cold at the start for four hours, and I just couldn't get going," he said. "The long avenues. You could see four miles up the road at one point. I finished in 4:20."

Marrakesh in January was no better, more a Moroccan "happening". "There was a false start — we ran between two and three kilometres through the city before being stopped — then a second, confused start." Williamson said. "No toilets and no water after half-way. It was a proper Fred Karto's Circus. But unforgettable, nevertheless. I did 4:18."

London on April 22 ought to be better provided, Williamson, who will turn 50 this year, finds running has become part of his life, managing 10 miles each day and going into the hills on a Sunday — all of it alone. He takes Mondays off.

"I'm running London for the Shorham Harbour Lifboat Appeal. They've had their present boat since 1967 and it has been launched 604 times with the saving of 360 lives. Eight medals for gallantry have been awarded. But it must be replaced as it's out of date.

"A new 47-foot Tyne-class boat, with all the latest sonic and radar gear, has been ordered and should be in service in July. With a top speed of 18 knots and diesel tanks holding 612 gallons, it will be a big improvement."

"But it's costing £590,000. Half of this is covered by a legacy but the rest has to be found by fund-raising, donations and by public support. Lifboat crews are all volunteers and the Royal National Lifboat Institution exists entirely on voluntary contributions. Fortunately it is dear to many people. It provides a service second to none."

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Beach boy: Williamson ploughs a lone trail in training

FISHING

Sports Council plans a study from all angles

By Conrad Voss Bark

YOU may well have forgotten, and how fortunate you are, that 10 years ago, a scientific survey found that most of Britain's three million anglers were of doubtful virtue. It also found out that fishing was, in the main, the sole purpose of going fishing and that the only other activities that took place were eating and drinking. It took several thousand pounds and the activities of a number of social scientists to make these unremarkable discoveries. The social scientists also thought that anglers on the whole were rather selfish chaps. They would go off fishing by themselves or with a gang and leave their wives and children neglected at home. That is what they meant. What they actually said was: "The current norm of the angling sub-culture appears to run contrary to current social trends."

However, it did its best. It produced a 150-page report of the report and their conclusions have satisfied its sponsors. The Angling Foundation, the Water Research Centre, the Water Space Amenities Commission, the Sports Council, and the National Anglers' Council. One cannot help wondering what good came of it. The report was greeted with puzzled but respectful reviews. The marketing men must have held long conferences on the report and their conclusions minuted and forgotten. In fact, though it may be heresy to doubt the value of surveys, as the social scientists themselves would argue, one cannot help coming to a conviction that the whole thing was a waste of time. However, the idea of in-depth studies of angling persists. The Sports Council has come up with another one. This time, of it had to be translated into English. The "social" scientific sub-culture puts up barriers of its own against a easy understanding of its current norms.

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TRAVEL

In the first of a series on six great cities of the world, Charles Bremner reports from New York — where to shop and stay, what to see, and the best brunch in town

The greatest and worst show on earth

When McDonald's hamburgers are being cooked from Manchester to Moscow, and the symbols of American consumer bliss are flooding even the most remote lands, there may be few truly romantic cities left to explore. New York is one of them.

New York remains both the greatest of American cities and easily the least "American" of them all. Still a metropolis like none other on earth, it has resisted that rush to suburban comfort that has coloured US life since the war and accelerated in the Eighties with the "malling of America" — the explosion of shopping centres and restaurants that removed any need for the middle class to go to town for much except work.

It is an uncomfortable town, a city of extremes where the very rich and the very poor mix in narrow streets, rubbing shoulders because, unlike anywhere else except parts of San Francisco or Boston, walking is often the best way to get about.

It is the jumble of cultures and languages that gives New York its exhilarating and unnerving flavour. Go to Moscow and you expect to find a Russian taxi driver who knows how to get to Red Square. Come to New York and the chances are your driver will also be Russian, if not Haitian or Syrian, and it would not be unusual for him to be unable to find the Brooklyn Bridge, even if he knows enough English to understand your request. Pleading that you are a foreigner is no good, since it seems almost everyone is a newcomer. Though a source of intimidation, it is also one of the city's charms that, from arrival, everyone is assumed to be a New Yorker.

Hidiously ugly or passionately beautiful, you can decide New York is both at once without fearing contradiction. After all, Le Corbusier called it a "beautiful catastrophe". Beguiling, gaudy, dynamic, violent... all the old adjectives still apply as much in 1990 as they did when people first used them early in the 19th century.

If you want a flavour of America in its pioneer days, a rougher place full of energy, New York is the place to find it. Yes, it is violent and suffering now from an epidemic of beggars and the blight of a crack-addicted "underclass". But it always had its raw side, its quality of "Bagdad on Hudson", as O. Henry once called it. They complained just as hard about the illiterate underclass in the late 19th century, only in those days, it referred to the residue of the huddled masses from Central Europe who crammed into the tenements of lower Manhattan, spreading crime and alcoholism.

New York has always swayed on the brink of chaos and the locals relish the fact. They take a perverse pride in the idea of the city as decaying from bad to awful, the notion that they have not just the best, as they do, from restaurants to shows to shops, but also the worst of everything, such as rudest cab drivers, noisiest subways, meanest streets.

It is not, in fact, such a daunting place. Last year, when New York ranked third



Magnet for huddled masses: windswept perspective on Wall Street and Lower Manhattan from the Brooklyn Bridge, looking west; Fifth Avenue, Broadway and the Empire State Building are further north

in a magazine list of Best Mannered Cities in America, New Yorkers were indignant. "Is Beirut second?" asked one irate columnist. Another suggested that, perched on the thought, "creeping Torontoism" might be setting in. The last straw came when *Savvy* magazine rated the city as one of the best for single women to live. In fact, for all the horror stories, New York ranks overall about 10th most dangerous of American cities, well behind Miami, Detroit, Washington and central Los Angeles. The crime rate has recently picked up after a long fall through the Eighties, but still, few urban centres are more secure at night than the lively streets of mid-town Manhattan. Real danger does, however, lurk for the foolhardy who stray into quieter areas at night or anywhere in the subway system after mid-evening.

Everyone has his picture of New York, or at least of Manhattan, the smallest in size of the five boroughs that sit on three islands and a chunk of mainland tenuously anchored by bridges and tunnels to the American continent. Manhattan's insular nature is a help to understanding its mystique. The place has about as much in common with the bleak New Jersey shore a few hundred yards

from the old liner docks on the Hudson as Venice does with its industrial neighbour Mestre.

Those New York images are all true since you can find everything and everyone in the Big Apple. The city acquired that nickname, incidentally, early this century to denote its rank as the top of everything, the place where you had finally made it. For Americans as a whole and for many in the world of finance, fashion or entertainment Manhattan can still claim that status.

With its towering canyons, potholed streets and belching steam vents, Manhattan at dusk can conjure all the horrors of urban nightmare beloved of the cop movies and the Thirties futurists. That vision of Gotham City, the sinister art deco slum, was the one so well caricatured in last year's *Batman* film. A more pedestrian variation can be found in the subway system, whose mixture of menace and clattering trains tells you as much about old New York as you can taste of Victorian London from the old stations of the Bakerloo line.

But New York is also the glitter of Fifth Avenue in the Christmas shopping season or the elegance of Park Avenue and the Grand Central Station whose great concourse has just been refurbished and is well worth a visit. Look back at those stylish films of the Fifties such as *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and you recognize a New York that still exists. Wander up Park Avenue and you will find the old style, like the doorman at the palatial apartment buildings who step out to open the limousine doors for their well-to-do tenants.

London may have lost the bowler, but in New York, you still see plenty of well-tailored young men striding to their offices with the old grey fedoras and Homburgs. In fact you will see more now than 15 years ago since the affluent Eighties, with their back-to-the-future fashions, helped restore much of the gloss Manhattan had lost during its 1970s financial crisis.

Broadway may have lost its splendour, but for all the taints of the porn shows and adult bookshops, it is still home to the best theatrical and musical talent of America. You can still sit in the art deco elegance of the Rainbow Room atop the Rockefeller Centre — albeit now owned by the Japanese — and look out on the skyscrapers, those vertical cathedrals like Woolworth Building and the Empire State that gave the city its magic. Their impact was never dimmed by the slab-like towers of the international school that came later to dominate all those other cities that like to boast of being the

Manhattan of their particular part of the world.

Ask any New Yorker for his favourite and you will probably be told the Chrysler building, an ode to the optimism of the machine age. Ideally, you should stick some Gershwin in your Walkman before glancing skyward to examine the extraordinary cacophony of gargoyles and gigantic stainless steel spokes that spring from what look like Aztec hubcaps at its summit.

There can be few more breath-taking sights than a glimpse of the Chrysler building at night, jutting from the skyline as you approach the Mid-town tunnel on your way in through Queens from La Guardia or Kennedy airports. (Even as a biased New Yorker of three years' standing, I am moved by the spectacle.)

NEW YORK: WHAT TO DO AND WHERE TO GO

Just about any time of year is good for visiting New York, except July and August, the months of high heat and humidity when the natives do their best to keep out of town. Spring and autumn are the easiest, though the city works some of its richest charm in the dark and often bitterly cold months of winter.

HOTELS

Do luxe: The Carlyle, 35 East 75th at Madison Avenue (744 1600). Elegant old-world establishment on Upper East Side, frequented by "old money" Americans and celebrities escaping from the city palaces of Mid-town. Usually rated in the top two or three hotels in New York. Medium price: The Omni Berkshire Place (pronounced to rhyme with "park"), 21 East 52nd between Madison and 7th Avenue (753 5800). Comfortable and well-run right in the heart of most elegant Mid-town shopping area. Described by *Zagat's*, the top local guide, as "one of New York's best-kept secrets". Budget: Pickwick Arms (355 0300). Minimum facilities, but clean and friendly, and located at 230 East 51st Street, a pleasant Mid-town street near Bloomingdale and other big shops. Frequented by the young and by budget-conscious families.

RESTAURANTS/ NIGHT-TIME ENTERTAINMENT

This is New York's strongest suit. The variety is so great that it is hard to pick out a few to recommend. You name the cuisine and you can find a world-class establishment. If you like Japanese, try one of the dozens of good sushi establishments which are sprinkled over the Mid-town area. Prices are much lower than in London. The big-name restaurants are mentioned in all the guides: Lutece, Café des Artistes

(for watching celebrities), the Russian Tearoom, Four Seasons, etc. For old New York style, try dining and dancing at the Rainbow Room, just re-opened in original 1930s décor, atop Rockefeller Centre, at 30 Rockefeller Plaza, 65th floor. It's close to the Radio City Music Hall, which is the home of the best variety acts, and Broadway is nearby. Though it is a well-known old fixture, the Carnegie Deli, 854 Seventh Avenue at 55th Street, in the midst of theatre-land, is the place for a taste of classic New York "deli" cuisine — corned-beef on rye, bagels and lox, etc. If you want to try real "neighbourhood" type dining — places with absolutely no tourists — I would suggest two good local Italian in the less elegant Gramercy Park area between Mid-town and the Village. Anthony's Sal at Irving Place (18th Street just off Park Avenue) is usually full, so you need to book (862 9030). Frank's Trattoria (on 37th 1st Avenue at 21st Street) is simple back-room Italian with excellent service (walk through the pizza parlour). No need to book. Try the angel-hair pasta and shrimp. Cash only.

For a fashionable younger crowd, the hot restaurant-club of the moment is Lucky Strike on Grand Street and West Broadway in SoHo, which is owned by Keith McNally, one of the two British McNally brothers. Closes at 4am. 150 Wooster (Wooster Street), brother Brian McNally's place in SoHo, is trendiest of all, but very difficult to get a table unless you are either a celebrity or well-connected. Flamingo East at Second Avenue and 13th Street is the place to rub shoulders with designers, models, artists. Delia's, a candle-lit supper-club on 3rd Street and Avenue C, is a good place to meet people. Run by an Irish woman, it is a mix of Downtown bohemian life and well-heeled young professional types enjoying the adventure of dining in the

Lower East Side, still one of the city's roughest districts. The best authentic New York brunch is to be found at Barney Greengrass on Amsterdam Avenue and 86th Street on the Upper West side. You can eat lox and a bagel or sturgeon omelette in the side room of a delicatessen. Very crowded at weekend "brunchtime". At the other end of town, the River Café in Brooklyn (1 Water Street, mentioned in the accompanying article) offers both excellent American cuisine and a superb view across the river to the new skyscrapers of the Financial District.

THINGS TO BUY

This includes items that are either less widely available in UK or more expensive. Bloomingdale's on Lexington Avenue and 59th Street is the most fashionable and the place for the younger Manhattan look. But try Saks Fifth Avenue (at 48th Street) for more classic style and better service. Bergdorf Goodman is the poshest, and worth a look even if you don't buy (on Fifth and 57th). Cameras and consumer electronics such as computers and portable stereos, audio and video equipment are much cheaper and a wider selection is on offer in New York than in the UK. Don't forget that UK customs duty is payable and remember that if you are using a mains power supply you need to make sure equipment can handle British voltage. That's a good reason for buying portable stuff. Do not go near any of the "cut-price" electronics stores on Fifth Avenue. Be ready to bargain in many smaller discount shops. Best, though, to avoid bargaining — do like many New Yorkers and buy at 47th Street Photo, an eccentric place run by Hasidic Jews, which offers lowest fixed prices for electronics and cameras. Go to their branch at 15 West 45th Street, where there is a computer showroom. Continued overleaf

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TRAVEL

Most wine tours I have been on have been jolly events balanced between dry cellar tours and enjoyably liquid lunches. Any dreary spots can usually be ditched in favour of an afternoon in the sun and, as it is hard to be unsociable over a glass of wine, these holidays are splendid for people on their own.

This year, the prize for the most unusual and expensive goes to Goodwood Travel, Concorde House, Stour Street, Canterbury, Kent. It has organized a day-trip to Bordeaux on Concorde on Sunday, September 9. For £1,150 and a 6.30am start, you get the Concorde return flight plus a visit to the St Emilion district, a tour of Château Beau Séjour Becot, a six-course banquet at Château de Vayres and a quick trip round Bordeaux city.

Abercrombie & Kent, Sloane Square House, Holbein Place, London SW1, is running two wine tours to Burgundy. The six-night trip aboard a well-equipped barge starts at Paris and includes visits to Chablis, Montrachet and Beaune, with wine talks and tastings en route from Peter and Penny Noble of The Grape Connection. The £1,576 cost includes return flights to Paris. Departures are on June 22 and October 18.

Also new this year are four short-break tours by Thresher. The cheapest is three days by coach to Champagne for £169 per per-

Quick trips to the cellar

son. The champagne houses Mercier and Louis Roederer are featured and breakfast and a champagne dinner on both nights is also included. Departures are April 28 and May 19. The four-day Bordeaux and Cognac tour, leaving on May 10, is also good value for money at £299 including flights. None of the tours is likely to give wine drinkers more than a taste for the region and its wines, but they are good value.

Contact: Will Sadler, Banks Sadler, Pratt Mews, Camden Town, London NW1 for details. Arblaster & Clarke, run by Tim Clarke and Lynette Arblaster, has more than a dozen different wine holidays including new tours to California, northern Spain and the central Loire. I liked the look of its September 1-3 champagne tour that takes in the majestic houses of Krug and Alfred Gratien for just £179. Then there is Barcelona-

plus the Penedès region, including leading producers Torres and five firms such as Masures, on November 15-18 for £299. Celebrated Médoc properties, such as Palmer and Cheval-Blanc, are included in its September 5-9 Bordeaux trip (£409). Arblaster & Clarke's brochure is available at 104 Church Road, Steep, Petersfield, Hampshire.

The big name in wine holidays is World Wine Tours, 4 Dorchester Road, Drayton St Leonard, Oxfordshire, run by Liz and Martin Hollis. These are aimed at fine wine drinkers

led by Masters of Wine and are more expensive than others. Still, WWT's informative trips manage to secure an entrée to all the best châteaux and look very imaginative. You can visit the Rhône valley and the Languedoc region with Master of Wine Clive Coates, taking in first-class Rhône producers such as

Guigal, Jaboulet and de Barjac as you go, plus the Languedoc's answer to Lafite, Mas de Deumas Gassac (£825, September 3-9).

Master of Wine Derek Smedley's visit to southern Tuscany and Umbria looks appetizing on October 1-5 (£695). It includes visits to Ripetto, di Montepulciano, and the famous estate of Torgiano, and detours to Assisi and Giotto frescoes at Assisi.

Master of Wine Paul Tholen's trip to northern Portugal (£795, September 23-29) starts in Oporto and features dinner in the historic Factory House, a tour of the vinho verde district and the picturesque Douro valley, topped by a trip to Taylor's fine Quinta da Vargalheira, plus the Douro and Beira regions. The latter's amazing Balcão Palace Hotel, once a royal hunting lodge, is worth the trip alone.

If you have always wanted to stay in a French chateau then there is only one choice: Chateau Loudenne. (Further details from Chateau Loudenne, Saint-Yzans-de-Médoc, 33340 Lesparre; 010 33 56 09 05 03.) The five-day, easy-to-absorb Ecole du Vin courses, based at the chateau, are limited to 12 people and cost 9,500 francs each. Besides talks and tastings, there are visits to other Bordeaux properties such as de Pez, Giscours and Lafite.

Jane MacQuitty

An Easter on skis

For many resorts, Easter, traditionally the *fin de saison*, has become the peak period of the ski-year. Crowds this March, for example, were already bigger than ever, and snow is no question. With spring weather, however, British skiers have already thrown their skis in the garden shed. But the experience of the past few years suggests that it is time for us to adjust our skiing calendars to the mountain reality.

Some ski resorts have already done so. Former British downhill champion Bartłski admits to having had his best skiing of the last few years in the post-Easter weeks in the spring snow in Verbier.

Where to go is a decision, even made at the last moment, after checking directly with the resort as this opens and closes according to rapidly changing conditions and demand. In general, smaller resorts at lower altitudes close earlier, usually just after Easter. Major resorts with glacier skiing such as Saas Fee and Zermatt never close.

Why go skiing at the end of the season? The day-light hours are longer, sunshine is at its peak, the snow is soft and the crowds are smaller. And, if you are a skier, the weather is just what you need.

And crowds and prices are at their minimum.

These are the lazy, if seldom hazy, days of skiing. Enjoy a leisurely breakfast and wait for the frozen pistes to melt. Finally the sun from south-east to south-west, at the spring snow gently softens into the most exhilarating and flattering texture an intermediate skier could imagine. In the afternoon, indulge in mogul mania in the security of soft slush jumps.

April showers can translate into powder dumps at high altitudes. In the past three years some of the best powder skiing in the Alps has been in the very last days of the season.

Cheerful skier: Staying out too long in the sun and the spring snow can be hazardous to your health. Glacier glasses, such as those made by Viarnet, with 100 per cent UV and infra-red protection and leather bladders at the sides, are advisable. By late afternoon the previously firm spring snow can turn into leg-breaking cement. And avalanches from sun-baked rocky promontories are frequent.

SWITZERLAND: Zermatt: No closing date; glacier skiing; spring snow best on Rothorn; spring helicopter skiing popular attraction (41 028 66 11 81).

Klosters: Closing April 22; spring skiing best on Madrisa (41 083 41 877). Saas Fee: No closing date; glacier skiing; views on seracs and open crevasses near piste (41 028 57 14 57).

Verbier: Closing May 6; Mont Fort sector closing after Easter week; vast spring skiing terrain (41 26 31 66 66).

AUSTRIA: St Anton: Closing end April; Rendl Beach sector best spring snow (43 5446 226 90). Kitzbühel: Closing April 17; snow after Easter "a problem" (43 5356 21 55).

FRANCE: Chamonix: Closing around May 10, but flexible; Vallée Blanche may close earlier; Grande Montets famous for powder and spring snow late in season (33 5053 0024). Val d'Isère: Closing May 8; promise no lift queues and all lifts open until end (33 7906 1083).

Courchevel: Closing May 1; connections with Trois Vallées "usually" open until then (33 7908 0029).

ITALY: Bormio: Closing April 26; spring snow "not so bad" (39 342 903 300). Courmayeur: Closing "hopefully" May 6; access to Vallée Blanche (39 165 841 021).

Doug Sager

TRAVEL NEWS

Counting the cost

Holidays look like being more expensive next winter because of sterling's decline against major European currencies.

In the year to the end of March — the cut-off date used by tour operators for costing winter holidays — the pound depreciated by more than 14 per cent against local currency in skiing areas such as Austria, France and Italy. The decline was rather less for sunshine destinations, at about 12 per cent for Spain, 7.5 per cent for Portugal and 4.7 per cent for Cyprus.

Overall package price increases next winter will be cushioned by the fact that sterling has depreciated by only 4.5 per cent over the past year against the US dollar, the currency used for buying aviation fuel.

Price cuts to four US cities this summer have been announced by the charter flight specialist ASAT. The biggest savings are to Orlando and Los Angeles, which both have reductions of up to £70. In the case of Orlando, a week's car hire is now included in the fare, which starts at £329 return. The lowest New York fare is cut by £50 to £199 return (0737 778560).

Philip Ray

New York

Continued from page 57

Rugged American outdoor and sportswear is enjoying a fashion boom. In the more expensive range, try Timberland which is sold everywhere, but has a nice shop of its own on 709 Madison Avenue at 63rd. Cole Haen, close by at 667 Madison, is headquarters for handsome American-style loafers and country shoes for men and women. For stylish and high-quality classic American leather goods, it is worth a look at the main branch of the Coach Shop across the street at 710 Madison. For men's outdoor jackets and sweaters try Abercrombie and Fitch in the South Street Seaport, a new waterside shopping area in Downtown. While there, look at the Brookstone gadget shop and the Sharper Image, which sells designer electronic goodies and other such items. For the broadest range of pure sporting clothes go to Faragon on Broadway at 18th. Going downtown from there, it is worth a look at the shops of Greenwich Village and SoHo (which stands for "South of Houston Street" and has nothing to do with the London version). This area is New York's "Left Bank". If you want to disguise yourself in the native all-black leather and other garb, you can find everything you need in the shops on Broadway, below 8th Street and on West Broadway the other side of Houston.

Some of the most stylish country and hiking wear can be found at Eddie Bauer, the Seattle-based chain. The nearest store is just across the Hudson river in New Jersey, to be found in the Newport shopping mall, a big new shopping centre just the other side of the Holland tunnel. Not only is it spacious, being off Manhattan, but most of its goods carry little or no purchase tax. You can get a taxi to take you there — only 10 minutes from Manhattan, as long as it is not the rush hour. For the more adventurous, I would suggest renting a car at one of the numerous Hertz, Avis or National locations

around Manhattan. Car hire is far cheaper here than in Europe. Then you could drive up the Palisades Parkway and stop for a superb view of Manhattan from the cliffs on the other side. You could drive back across the George Washington Bridge or, better still, go further up the Hudson Valley, cross over into New York State at one of the bridges higher up, and come back down into Manhattan. At weekends, except in high summer, the traffic is not heavy.

TRANSPORT

Taxis are relatively inexpensive but be prepared for surly drivers. A majority are recent immigrants, few of whom speak much English. Traffic flows pretty well up and down town (on the avenues), but the cross streets are highly congested for much of the day. For getting around in mid-town, walking is still best. For travelling up and down town, the fastest method is the subway system. It is much less daunting than it looks at the outset. The fare is a flat \$1.15 (about 70p) in Manhattan. You use brass tokens which you buy at the token booth in any station. These can be used on the buses, which are also a convenient though less speedy form of transport. The subways are not dangerous during the day. They are worth avoiding after about 8pm.

GETTING THERE

British Airways' Poundstretcher offers a wide variety of holidays in the US for the independent traveller. Prices start at £689 for seven nights in New York, and £839 for a fly-drive holiday — flights, accommodation and car hire (including collision damage waiver). Poundstretcher: flights 0293-618060, holidays 0293-518022.

● The international telephone dialling code for New York is 0101 212.

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*All travel must be completed by June 30th 1990 and must include one Saturday night. No changes allowed once ticket is issued. Fares are non-refundable. TWA reserves the right to limit the number of passengers carried on any flight at these fares and such fares may not necessarily be available on all flights. Subject to Government approval.

TRAVEL

Louisiana and all that jazz

New Orleans has changed its tune;
it's louder, Richard Cavendish says.
But the food sounds really great

Thirty years ago you could walk along Bourbon Street in New Orleans of an evening, going from bar to bar and listening to the music for which the city was famous. It was played by elderly, dignified black musicians, looking like Baptist Church deacons. Some of them looked so old that you wondered how they had the strength to raise their instruments, but the southern Louisiana jazz they played was real — loud, crude, vigorous, with none of its rough edges knocked off.

It might or might not be the music you would want to play to yourself at home on a record, but in its setting, alongside the Mississippi in a simple New Orleans bar on a hot night, it was magical.

The old gentlemen played trumpet, clarinet, trombone, piano, banjo, bass and drums. No saxophones. No amplified guitars. Few vocals. The music was played with minimal regard for the audience. Applause might be acknowledged with a curt nod of the bandleader's grizzled head. No one announced anything; the people in the audience were not told the names of the tunes or the names of the musicians. Sitting on your plain chair at your plain table, nursing your beer or whisky, you were a privileged spectator at a ritual which was being conducted for its own sake, not yours.

Now, the age of the tourist has dawned. Bourbon Street and its sister alleys are flashier than ever; demented neon signs wink on and off, strip joints nudge and wriggle. All

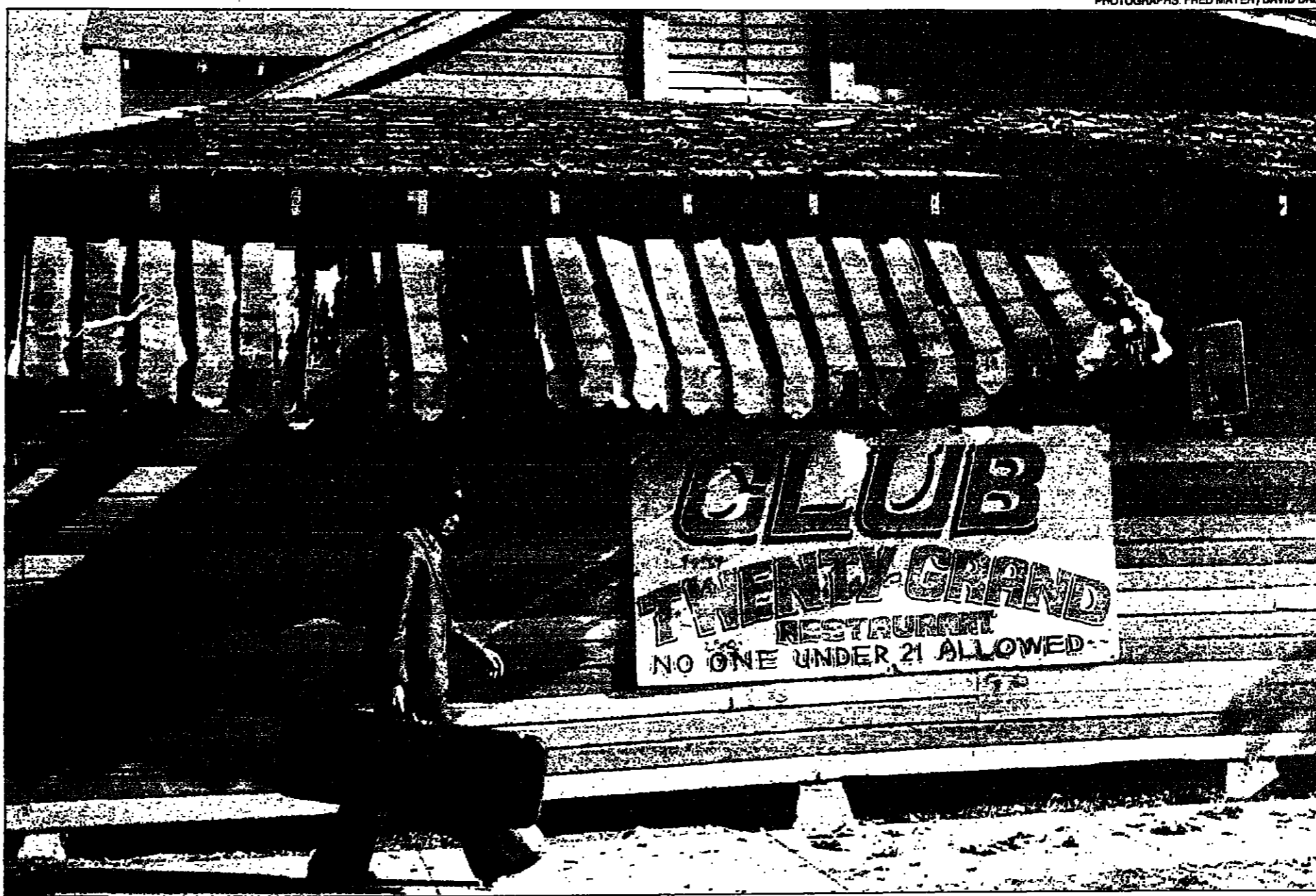
day and half the night music booms along the sidewalks and ricochets off the walls. Dixieland jazz, progressive jazz, rhythm and blues, country and western, Cajun country fiddle music, black Cajun music (a separate category). There's even Ryan's, the Irish bar, where the Innis Frees oblige with misty ballads of the coud sod.

In all this, the one thing hard to find is the sort of jazz that the old men used to play in quiet bars. New Orleans is now a leading tourist and conference centre, and tourism kills the thing it loves. Most visitors are assumed to prefer the smoother, flashier, easier-on-the-ear strains of Dixieland or the familiar bellows of rock 'n' roll.

The nearest thing to the old style can be heard at Preservation Hall, on St Peter Street, where a sound that Buddy Bolden might have recognized is created every evening from 8 o'clock onwards.

Preservation Hall is a shabby small barn, or large hut, devoid of everything that makes life worth living except jazz. There are no drinks, no food, no waiters. There is no air conditioning and very little light. Most patrons have to stand and there is nothing to do except listen to the music. On the walls are faded photographs of musicians of the past and a sign which says that traditional requests cost \$1, other requests \$2, and "The Saints" \$5.

The consequence is that the place is jam-packed every night, and those who cannot get in stand outside on the street, pressing their ears against the shutters. The rest



Old-style New Orleans: a man, his treasured instrument, and a gaudy joint in which to play it. That's real, mean jazz. For a cooler, touristy evening out, try the ole foot-tappin' Hilton hotel

of New Orleans is Dixieland, some very good Dixieland. The mellifluous clarinet of the veteran Pete Fountain sets the Hilton hotel's collective foot tapping every night. The youthful Dukes of Dixieland, powered by a drummer of ferocious brilliance, play college-boy, straw-hat, Chicago-style jazz most nights at Mahogany Hall on Bourbon Street. This was one of the bordellos where jazz was born and it has a pleasant atmosphere than some of the tourist dollar-peeling joints.

You can hear less starry but agreeable bands at the New Storyville Jazz Hall on Decatur Street and the Famous Door on Bourbon, or in the open air in front of the cathedral in Jackson Square,

the heart of the city's venerable French Quarter. If you are extraordinarily lucky, you may even see one of the riotous jazz funerals blowing and dancing on its cheerful way back from the cemetery.

New Orleans has plenty to offer the visitor. The French Quarter, with its 19th century villas and lacy ironwork balconies, has a style all of its own, with glittering antique shops and some of the best restaurants in world.

Of these, the most famous is Antoine's on St Louis Street, with more waiters per square foot than you'd credit. The locals also speak highly of Arnaud's, on Bienville Street, which has a turn-of-the-century air, but for real French cooking and charm, you can't

beat The Court of the Two Sisters, Royal Street. Brennan's, also on Royal Street, is famous for breakfasts and eggs Benedict. The Rib Room, on St Louis Street, does roast beef, and what the locals think is Yorkshire pudding. For the traditional Creole cuisine — gumbo, jambalaya and so on — it must be Tujagues, Decatur Street. For spicy Cajun food, try Pêre Antoine's, corner of Royal and St Ann.

By London standards, restaurant prices are reasonable. Among its other delights, New Orleans offers streetcar and carriage rides and (back to music) jazz evenings on Mississippi steamers.

Yes, there's lots of enjoyable music to hear. But not much of the real old thing.



Pure jazz: Preservation Hall, unadulterated entertainment

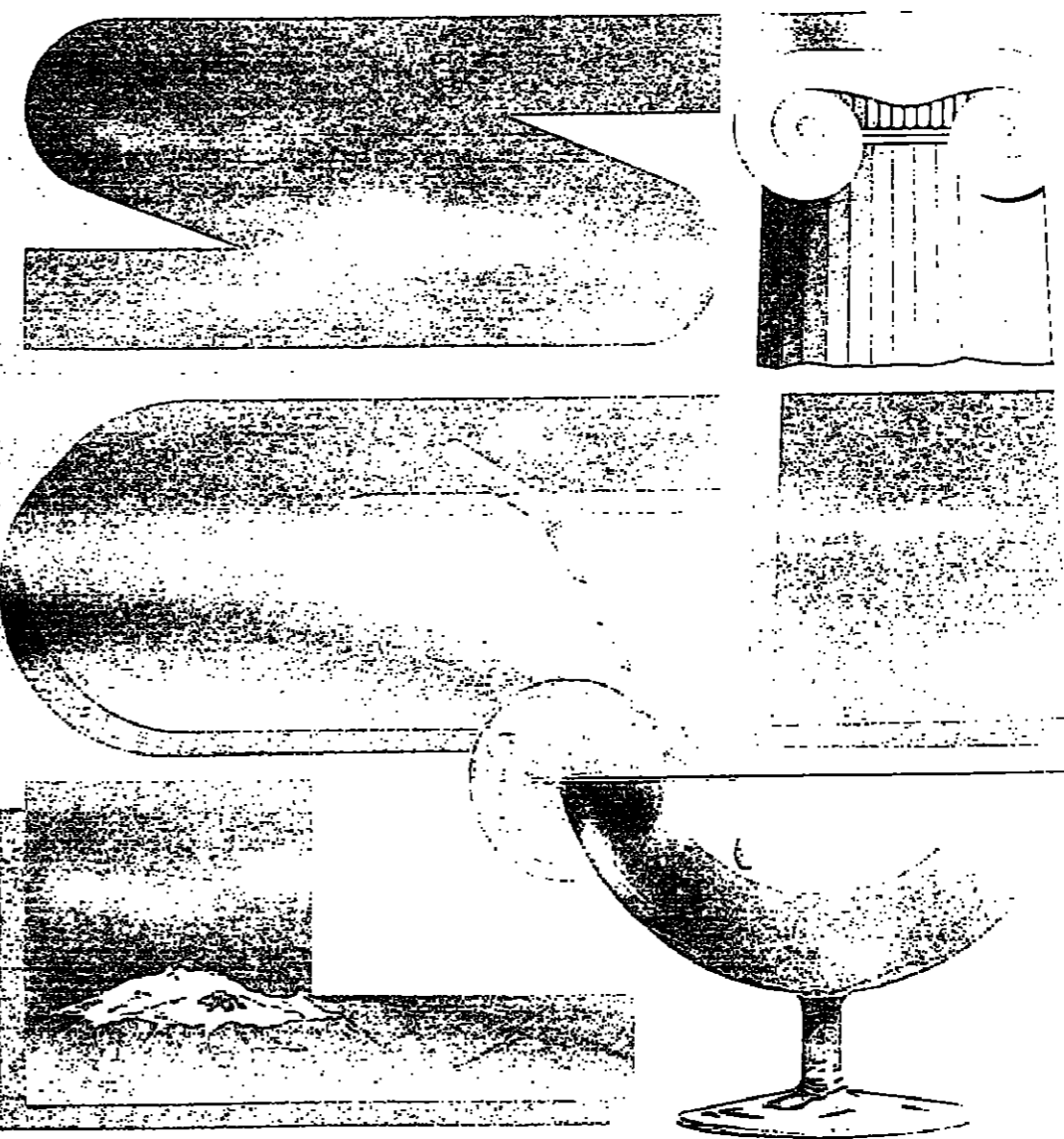
TRAVEL NOTES

● Richard Cavendish flew to New Orleans by TWA (01-636 4090) via New York, but complains: "Planes were late or cancelled, connections missed; nobody seemed to care. You would do better with British Airways, flying via Atlanta." BA (01-697 4000), economy class, low-season return from £314, high-season £408 (midweek travel, seven nights minimum stay).

● The glossy Hilton Riverside and Hyatt Regency hotels charge more than £70 per night. Mr Cavendish stayed in modest comfort at the Landmark French Quarter Hotel, 920 North Rampart St (524 3333), £35 per night single room. Rates do not include breakfast or state tax.

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